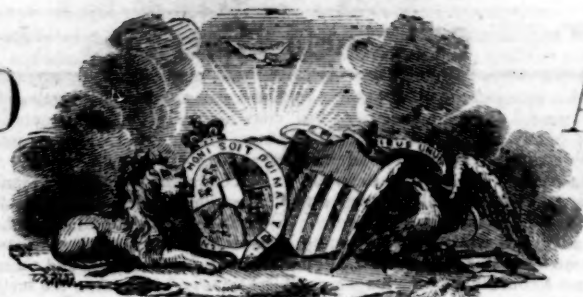


A. D. PATERSON,  
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## SPACE—TIME.

BY LAMAN BLANCHARD.

Amidst the Crowd a minstrel sang,  
And touched a string of finest sound;  
Unheard, for clamour rudely rang,  
And envious discord music drowned.  
A spot, some distance off, I chose—  
And sweetness crept along the air!  
Above the din the music rose—  
I heard the minstrel there!  
Too often this the poet's lot:  
He sings to present time in vain,  
With crowds around him, hearkening not,  
All careless mirth or loud disdain.  
But when a distant day has blushed  
Above the rude tumultuous throng,  
The clamour of an age is hushed—  
Then wakes the sleeping song!

## NONSENSE.

Nonsense! thou delicious thing,  
Thought and feeling's effervescence;  
Like the bubbles from a spring,  
In their sparkling evanescence.  
Thou, the child of sport and play,  
When the brain keeps holiday;  
When old gravity and reason  
Are dismiss'd as out of season;  
And imagination seizes  
The dominion while she pleases—  
Though to praise thee can't be right,  
Yet, Nonsense, thou art exquisite!  
When for long and weary hours,  
We have sat with patient faces,  
Tasking our exhausted powers  
To utter wise old common-places;  
Hearing and repeating too,  
Things unquestionably true—  
Maxims which there's no denying,  
Facts to which there's no replying:  
Then, how often have we said,  
With tired brain and aching head,  
"Sense may be all true and right—  
But, Nonsense, thou art exquisite!"  
When we close the fireside round—  
When young hearts with joy are brimming—  
While gay, laughing voices sound,  
And eyes with dewy mirth are swimming  
In the free and fearless sense  
Of friendship's fullest confidence;  
Pleasant, then, without a check,  
To lay the reins on fancy's neck,  
And let her wild caprices vary  
Through many a frolicsome vagary,  
Exclaiming, still in gay delight,  
"O, Nonsense, thou art exquisite!"

## RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

BY MRS ABELL, (LATE MISS ELIZA DALCOMBE.)

DURING THE TIME SPENT BY HIM IN HER FATHER'S HOUSE  
AT ST. HELENA.—No. II

The Emperor possessed a splendid set of China of the Sèvres manufacture, which had been executed at an enormous cost, and presented to him by the City of Paris. They were now unpacking, and he sent for us to see them. They were painted by the first artists in Paris, and were most lovely. Each plate cost twenty-five Napoleons. The subjects all bore reference to his campaigns, or to some period of his early life. Many of them were battle pieces, in which the most striking incidents were portrayed with the utmost spirit and fidelity. Others were landscapes, representing scenery connected with his victories and triumphs.

One, I remember, made a great impression on me. It was a drawing of Napoleon on the bridge of Arcola. A slim youth—standing almost alone, with none near but the dead and dying, who had fallen around him—was cheering on his more distant comrades to the assault. The spirit and energy of his figure particularly attracted my admiration. The Emperor seemed pleased at my admiring it, and putting his hand to his side, exclaimed, laughing,

"I was rather more slender then than I am now."

The battle of Leipsic was one of the subjects depicted on the china. Napoleon's figure was happily done, and an admirable likeness; but one feels rather surprised at the selection of such a subject for a complimentary present. I believe the battle of Leipsic is considered to have been one of the most disastrous defeats on record; but probably the good citizens of Paris were not so well aware of this at the time the china was presented to him as they are now.

His campaign in Egypt furnished subjects for some of the illustrations. The

stork was introduced in several of these Egyptian scenes, and I happened to have heard that that bird was worshipped by the Egyptians. I asked him if it were so. He smiled, and entered into a long narration of some of his adventures with the army in Egypt; advising me never to go there, or I should catch the ophthalmia, and spoil my eyes!

I had also heard that he had professed Mahometanism when there; and I had been prompted by some one to catechise him on the subject. I at once came out with the question in my English French.

"Pourquoi avez vous tourné Turque?"

He did not at first understand me, and I was obliged to explain that *tourné Turque* meant changing his religion.

He laughed and said,

"What is that to you? fighting is a soldier's religion; I never changed that. The other is the affair of women and priests,—*au reste*; I always adopt the religion of the country I am in."

At a later period some Italian ecclesiastics arrived at St. Helena, and were attached to Napoleon's suite.

Amongst the Emperor's domestics at the Briers, was a very droll character; his lamp-lighter, a sort of *Leporello*, a most ingenious little fellow in making toys, and other amusing mechanical contrivances. Napoleon would often send for the scaramouch to amuse my brothers, who were infinitely delighted with his tricks and buffooneries. Sometimes he constructed balloons, which were inflated and sent up amidst the acclamations of the whole party. One day he contrived to harness four mice to a small carriage, but the poor little animals were so terrified that he could not get them to move, and after many ineffectual attempts, my brothers entreated the Emperor to interfere. Napoleon told him to pinch the tails of the two leaders, and when they started the others would follow. This he did, and immediately the whole four scampered off to our great amusement—Napoleon enjoying the fun as much as any of us, and delighted with the extravagant glee of my two brothers.

I had often entreated the Emperor to give a ball before he left the Briers in the large room occupied by him, which had been built by my father for that purpose.

He had promised me faithfully he would, but when I pressed him urgently for the fulfilment of his promise, he only laughed at me, telling me he wondered I could be so silly as to think such a thing possible.

But I never ceased reproaching him for his breach of faith, and teased him so that at last, to escape my importunities, he said, that as the ball was out of the question, he would consent, by way of *amende honorable*, to any thing I chose to demand to console me for my disappointment.

"Tell me, que veux tu que je fasse, Mademoiselle Betsee, pour te consoler."

I replied instantly.

"If you will play a game of 'blind man's buff,' which you have so often promised me, I will forgive you the ball, and never ask for it again." Not knowing the French term (if there is any) for blind man's buff.

I had explained before to the Emperor the nature of the operation to be gone through.

He laughed at my choice, and tried to persuade me to choose something else, but I was inexorable, and seeing his fate inevitable, he resigned himself to it with a good grace, proposing that we should begin at once.

My sister and myself, and the son of either General Bertrand or some other of the Emperor's suite, formed the party. Napoleon said we should draw lots who should be blindfolded first, and he would distribute the tickets.

Some slips of paper were prepared, on one of which was written the fatal word "*la mort*," and the rest were blanks. Whether accidentally or by Napoleon's contrivance I know not, but I was the first victim, and the Emperor asking a cambric handkerchief out of his pocket, tied it tightly over my eyes, asking me if I could see.

"I cannot see you," I replied, but a faint gleam of light did certainly escape through one corner, making my darkness a little less visible.

Napoleon then taking his hat waved it suddenly before my eyes; and the shadow and the wind it made startling me, I drew back my head.

"Ah, little monkey," he exclaimed in English, "you can see pretty well."

He then proceeded to tie another handkerchief over the first, which completely excluded every ray of light.

I was then placed in the middle of the room and the game began.

The Emperor commenced by creeping stealthily up to me and giving my nose a very sharp twinge. I knowing it was him both from the act itself and his footstep I dared forward and very nearly succeeded in catching him, but bounding actively away, he eluded my grasp. I then groped about and advancing again, he this time took hold of my ear and pulled it. I stretched out my hands instantly, and in the exultation of the moment screamed out, "I have got you—I have got you—now you shall be blindfolded!"

But to my great mortification it proved to be my sister, under cover of whom Napoleon had advanced, stretching his hand over her head.

We then recommenced, the Emperor saying, that as I had named the wrong person, I must continue blindfolded. He teased and quizzed me about my mistake, and banttered me in every possible way; eluding at the same time with the greatest dexterity, my endeavours to catch him.

At last when the fun was growing "fast and furious," and the uproar was at its height, it was announced that some one desired an audience of the Emperor: and to my great annoyance, as I had set my heart on catching him, and insisting on his being blindfolded, our game came to a conclusion.

The Emperor having returned from seeing his visiter, and his dinner-hour approaching, he invited us to dine with him. We told him we had already dined.

"Then come and see me eat," he added; and when his dinner was a



nounced by Cipriani we accompanied him into his *marquee*. When at table he desired Narane to bring in some creams for me: I declined them as I had dined, but I had unfortunately told him once before that I was very fond of creams, and though I begged in vain to be excused, repeating a thousand times that I had dined, and could not eat any more, he pressed and insisted so strongly, that I was at last obliged to comply, and with some difficulty managed to eat half a cream.

But although I was satisfied, Napoleon was not; and when I left off eating, he commenced feeding me like a baby, calling me his little *bambina*, and laughing violently at my rueful countenance. At last I could bear it no longer, and scampered out of the tent, the Emperor calling after me.

"Stop, Miss Betsee; do stay, and eat another cream; you know you told me you liked them."

The next day he sent in a quantity of bon-bons by Marchand, with some creams; desiring his compliments to Miss Betsee and the creams were for her.

The Emperor possessed among his suite the most accomplished confiseur in the world. M. Piron daily supplied his table with the most elaborate, and really sometimes the most elegant designs in *pâtisserie*, spun sugar, &c. Triumphant arches, and amber palaces, glittering with prismatic tints, looked as if they had been built for the queen of the fairies, after her majesty's own designs.

Napoleon often sent us in some of the prettiest of these architectural delicacies; and I shall always continue to think the bon-bons from the atelier of Monsieur Piron "more exquisite still" than any thing I have ever since tasted.

But I suppose I must grant with a sigh, that early youth threw its *couleur de rose* tints over Piron's bon-bons, as well as over the more intellectual joys of that happy period.

The Emperor sometimes added sugared words to make these sweet things sweeter.

On New Year's day a deputation consisting of the son of General Bertrand, Henri, and Tristram, Madame Montholon's little boy, arrived with a selection of bon-bons for us, and Napoleon observed that he had sent his cupids to the graces. The bon-bons were placed in crystal baskets, covered with white satin napkins on Sevres plates. The plates I kept till lately, when I presented them to a lady who had shown my mother and myself many very kind attentions. And this was the last I possessed of Napoleon's many little gifts to me, with the exception of a lock of his hair, which I still retain, and which might be mistaken for the hair of an infant from its extreme softness and silkiness.

Napoleon was fond of sending these little presents to ladies, and generally courteous and attentive in his demeanour towards them. He always gave me the impression of being fond of lady's society; and as Mr. O'Meara remarks when alluding to my sister and myself dining one day with him, "His conversation was the perfection of *causerie*, and very entertaining." He was perhaps rather too fond of using direct compliments, but this was very pardonable in one of his rank and country.

He remarked once, that he had heard a great deal of the beauty and elegance of the governor's daughter, and asked me who I thought the most beautiful woman in the island. I told him I thought Madame Bertrand superior beyond all comparison to any one I had ever seen before. My father had been greatly struck with her majestic appearance on board the *Northumberland*; and I always thought every one else sank into insignificance when she appeared. And yet her features were not regular, and she had no strict pretension to beauty; but the expression of her face was very intellectual, and her bearing queen like and dignified.

Napoleon asked me if I did not consider Madame Montholon pretty. I said no. He then desired Marchand to bring down a snuff box, on the lid of which was a miniature of Madame Montholon. It certainly was like her, and very beautiful. He told me it was what she had been when young. He then recurred again to Miss C——, and said Gourgaud spoke in raptures of her, and had sketched her portrait from memory. He produced the drawing, and wished to know if I thought it a good likeness. I told him she was infinitely more lovely, and that it bore no trace of resemblance to her. I mentioned also that she was very clever and amiable. Napoleon said I was very enthusiastic in her favour, and had made him long to see her.

Mesdames Montholon and Bertrand, and the rest of his suite, often came to see him at the Briars, and remained the day. It was quite delightful to witness the deference and respect with which he was treated by them all. To them he was still "le grand empereur." His every look was watched, and each wish anticipated as if he had still been on the throne of Charlemagne.

On one of these occasions Madame Bertrand produced a miniature of the Empress Josephine, which she showed to Napoleon. He gazed at it with the greatest emotion for a considerable time without speaking. At last he exclaimed it was the most perfect likeness he had ever seen of her, and told Madame Bertrand he would keep it, which he did until his death. He has often looked at my mother for a length of time very earnestly, and then apologized, saying, that she reminded him so much of Josephine. Her memory appeared to be idolized by him, and he was never weary of dwelling on her sweetness of disposition and the grace of her movements. He said she was the most truly feminine of any woman he had ever known.

Napoleon afterwards spoke of the Empress Marie Louise with great kindness and affection. He said she would have followed him to St. Helena if she had been allowed; and that she was an amiable creature, and a very good wife.

He possessed several portraits of her. They were not very attractive, and were seen to disadvantage when contrasted, as they generally were, with his own handsome and intellectual-looking family.

The emperor retired early this evening. He had been in low spirits since his audience of his visiter: and after the portraits of the Empress Josephine and Marie Louise had been produced, he appeared absorbed in mournful reflection, and was still more melancholy and dejected for the rest of the evening. His visiter proved to be a Count Piontkowski, a Polish officer, who had formerly held a commission in "la grande armée," and had landed in the morning, having with great difficulty obtained permission to follow his master into exile, "to share with him his vulture and his rock." He called at the Briars, and requesting an audience, information had been sent to the emperor of his arrival. A long interview took place between them, which apparently excited painful reminiscences in the mind of the emperor. I asked him afterwards about his visiter. He seemed to have little personal recollection of him, but seemed gratified with his devotion, and said he had proved himself a faithful servant by following him into exile.

The emperor's English, of which he sometimes spoke a few words, was the oddest in the world. He had formed an exaggerated idea of the quantity of English spoken by English gentlemen, and used always to ask me, after we had

had a party, how many bottles of wine my father drank; and then laughing and counting on his fingers, generally made the number up to five. One day to annoy me, he said that my countrywomen drank gin and brandy; and then added in English,

"You laike verree mosh dreenk, mees; somtaines brandee, jeen."

Though I could hardly help laughing at his way of saying this, I felt most indignant at the accusation, and assured him that the ladies of England had the utmost horror of drinking spirits, and that they were even fastidious in the refinement of their ideas and their general habits. He seemed amused at my earnestness, and quoted the instance of a Mrs. B., who had, in fact, paid him a visit once in a state of intoxication. It was singular, indeed, that one of the few English ladies he had ever been presented to, should have been addicted to this habit. At last he confessed, laughing, that he had made the accusation only to tease me; but when I was going away he repeated,

"You like dreenk, Mees Betsee; dreenk, dreenk."

As the time drew near for Napoleon's removal to Longwood, he would come into our drawing-room oftener, and stay longer.

He said he should have preferred altogether remaining at the Briars. That he beguiled the hours with us better than he ever thought it possible he could do on such a horrible rock as St. Helena.

A day or two before his departure, General Bertrand came to the Briars and informed Napoleon that Longwood smelt so strongly of paint, that it was unfit to go into.

I shall never forget the fury of the emperor. He walked up and down the lawn, gesticulating in the wildest manner. His rage was so great that it almost choked him. He declared that the smell of paint was so obnoxious to him that he would never inhabit a house where it existed; and that if the grand marshal's report was true he should send down to the admiral, and refuse to enter Longwood. He ordered Las Cases to set off early the next morning to examine the house, and report if the information of General Bertrand was correct.

At this time I went out to him on the lawn and inquired the cause of his anger. The instant I joined him he changed his manner, and in a calm tone mentioned the reason of his annoyance. I was perfectly amazed at the power of control he evinced over his temper. In one moment, from the most awful state of fury, he subdued his irritated manner into perfect gentleness and composure.

Las Cases set off at daylight the next morning, and returned before twelve o'clock. He informed the emperor that the smell of paint was so slight as to be scarcely perceptible, and that a few hours would remove it altogether. The grand marshal was sharply reprimanded, as I afterwards learned, for making an exaggerated report.

It was arranged that he should leave the Briars two days afterwards for Longwood, which was now quite ready for him. On the appointed morning, which to me was a most melancholy one, Sir G. Cockburn, accompanied by the emperor's suite came to the Briars to escort him to his new abode. I was crying bitterly, and he came up and said,

"You must not cry, Made noiselle Betsee; you must come and see me very often at Longwood; when will you ride up?"

I told him that depended on my father. He turned round to papa and said,—

"Balcombe, you must bring Miss Jane and Betsee to see me next week, and very often."

My father promised he would, and kept his word. He asked where mamma was, and I said she desired her kind regards to the emperor, and regretted not being able to see him before his departure, as she was ill in bed.

"I will go up and see her."

And upstairs he darted before we had time to tell my mother of his approach. He seated himself on the bed, and expressed his regret at hearing she was unwell.

He was warm in his acknowledgments of her attentions to him, and said he would have preferred staying altogether at the Briars,\* if they would have permitted him. He then presented my mother with a gold snuff-box, and begged she would give it to my father as a mark of his friendship. He gave me a beautiful little *bonbonnier*, which I had often admired, and said,

"You can give it as a *gage d'amour* to le petit Las Cases."

I burst into tears, and ran out of the room.

I went to a window from which I could see his departure, but my heart was too full to look at him leaving us, and throwing myself on the bed I cried bitterly for a long time. When my father returned we asked him how the emperor liked his new residence. He said that he appeared out of spirits, and retiring to his dressing room had shut himself up for the remainder of the day.

With Napoleon's departure from the Briars my personal recollection of him may be said to have come to a conclusion. From my father being the emperor's purveyor we had a general order to visit him, and we seldom allowed a week to elapse without seeing him. On those occasions we generally arrived in time to breakfast with him at one, and returned in the evening.

He was more subject to depression than when at the Briars; but still gleams of his former playfulness shone out at times. On one occasion we found him firing at a mark with pistols. He put one into my hand loaded, I believe with powder, and in great trepidation I fired it off: he often called me afterwards "*La petite tirelleure*," and said he would form a corps of sharpshooters of which I should be the captain. He then went into the house, and he took me into the billiard-room, a table having been just set up at Longwood. I remember thinking it too childish for men, and very like marbles on a larger scale. The emperor condescended to teach me how to play, but I made very little progress, and amused myself with trying to hit his imperial fingers with the balls instead of making cannons and hazards.

Napoleon's health and activity began to decline soon after his arrival at Longwood. In consequence of the unfortunate disputes with the governor, Sir Hudson Lowe, he refused to take the exercise his constitution required, and his health became visibly impaired. He was unable, consequently, to enjoy the buoyancy of spirits which probably had been the chief cause of his allowing me to be so often in his society, and distinguishing me with so much of his regard. But he never failed to treat me with the greatest tenderness and kindness.

Some months after his departure I was attacked with an alarming illness.

\* I trust I may be forgiven the insertion of the following extracts from Mr. O'Meara's "*Voice from St. Helena*."

"The Briars is the name of an estate romantically situated, about a mile and a half from James-town, comprising a few acres of highly-cultivated land, excellent fruit and kitchen-gardens, plentifully supplied with water, with many delightful shady walks, and long celebrated for the genuine old English hospitality of the proprietor, Mr. Balcombe."

"Nothing was left undone by this worthy family that could contribute to lessen the inconveniences of his (Napoleon's) situation."



Mr. O'Meara attended me, and at one time despaired of my recovery. The emperor's kindness in making inquiries after me, and his other attentions I can never forget. He ordered his confessor when I became convalescent to supply me daily from his own table with every delicacy to tempt my appetite, and restore my strength.

In concluding my brief record of Napoleon I will spare my readers any lengthened expression of my own opinion of his character. I have placed before them the greater part of what occurred while I was in his society, and have thus given them, as far as I am able, the same means of judging of him as I possess myself. But yet, in a personal intercourse, incidents occur of too trivial or subtle a nature to be communicated to others, but which are still the truest indications of character, from being the results of impulse, and unpremeditated.

Even a look, a tone of the voice, a gesture, in an unreserved moment, will give an insight into the real disposition which years of a more formal intercourse would fail to convey; and this is particularly the case in the association of a person of mature age with very young people. There is generally a confiding candour and openness about them which invites confidence in return, and which tempts a man of the world to throw off the iron mask of reserve and caution, and be once more as a child. This at least took place in my intercourse with Napoleon, and I may therefore perhaps venture to say a few words on the general impression he left on my mind, after three months' daily communication with him.

The point of character which has more than any other been a subject of dispute between Napoleon's friends and his enemies, and which will ever be the most important of all estimation of a woman is, whether he furnished another proof of the "close affinity between superlative intellect and the warmth of the generous affections" (to use the words of the Rev. — Crabbe, in his delightful life of his father), or whether he is to be considered a superior kind of calculating machine, the reasoning power perfect, but the heart altogether absent.

Bourrienne, who, although conscientious and exact in the main exhibits no partiality to the emperor, describes him as "*très peu aimant*," and reports his having said, "I have no friend except Duroc, who is unfeeling and cold, and suits me;" and this may have been true in his intercourse with the world, and with men whom he was accustomed to consider as mere machines,—the instruments of his glory and ambition: and whom he therefore valued in proportion to the sternness of the stuff they were made of. Even his brothers, whom he is said to have included in this sweeping abnegation of friendship, he taught himself to look upon as the means of carrying out his ambitious projects, and as they were not always subservient to his will, but came at times into political collision with him, his fraternal affection, which seldom resists the rude shocks of contending worldly interests, was cooled and weakened in the struggle.

But my own conviction is, that unless Napoleon's ambition interfered, to which every thing else was sacrificed, he was possessed of much sensibility and feeling, and was capable of strong attachment.

The Duchess d'Angantes, who was intimately acquainted with Napoleon at an early age, gives him credit for much more warmth of heart than is allowed him by the world; and brought up as she had been with himself and his family she was well qualified to form an opinion of him.

I think his love of children, and the delight he felt in their society, and that, too, at the most calamitous period of his life, when a cold and unattachable nature would have been abandoned to the indulgence of selfish misery; in itself speaks volumes for his goodness of heart. After hours of laborious occupation, he would often permit us to join him; and that which would have fatigued and exhausted the spirits of others, seemed only to recruit and renovate him. His gaiety was often exuberant at these moments; he entered into all the feelings of young people, and when with them was a mere child, and, I may add, a most amusing one. I feel, however, even painfully, the difficulty of conveying to my readers my own impression of the disposition of Napoleon. Matters of feeling are often incapable of demonstration.

The innumerable acts of amiability and kindness which he lavished on all around him at my father's house, derived perhaps their chief charm from the way in which they were done—they would not bear being told. Apart from the sweetness of his smile and manner, their effect would have been comparatively nothing. But young people are generally keen observers of character. Their perceptive faculties are ever on the alert, and their powers of observation not the less acute, perhaps, that their reason lies dormant, and there is nothing to interrupt the exercise of their perceptions. And after seeing Napoleon in every possible mood, and in his most unguarded moments, when I am sure from his manner that the idea of acting a part never entered his head, I left him impressed with the most complete conviction of his want of guile, and the thorough amiability and goodness of his heart. That this feeling was common to almost every one who approached him, the respect and devotion of his followers at St. Helena is a sufficient proof. They had then nothing more to expect from him, and only entailed misery on themselves by adhering to his fortunes.

Shortly after he left the Briers for Longwood, I was witness to an instance of the almost worship with which he was regarded by those around him. A lady of high distinction at St. Helena, whose husband filled one of the diplomatic offices there, rode up one morning to the Briers. I happened to be on the lawn, and she requested me to show her the part of the cottage occupied by the emperor. I conducted her to the pavilion, which she surveyed with intense interest; but when I pointed out to her the crown which had been cut from the turf by his faithful adherents, she lost all control over her feelings. Bursting into a fit of passionate weeping, she sunk on her knees upon the ground, sobbing hysterically. At last she fell forward, and I became quite alarmed, and would have run to the cottage to tell my mother and procure some restoratives; but starting up, she implored me, in a voice broken by emotion, to call no one, for that she should soon be herself again. She entreated me not to mention to any one what had occurred; and proceeded to say that the memory of Napoleon was treasured in the hearts of the French people as it was in hers; and that they would all willingly die for him. She was herself a French woman and very beautiful.

She recovered herself after some time, and put a thousand questions to me about Napoleon, the answers to which seemed to interest her exceedingly. She said several times, "How happy it must have made you to be with the emperor!"

After a long interview, she put a thick veil down over her still agitated features, and returning to her horse, mounted and rode away. For once, I kept a secret, and though questioned on the subject, I merely said she had come to see the pavilion, without betraying what had taken place.

Napoleon, on his first arrival, showed an inclination to mix in what little society St. Helena afforded, and would, I think, have continued to do so but

for the unhappy differences with Sir Hudson Lowe. These at length grew to such a height, that the emperor seemed to consider it almost a point of honour to shut himself up, and make himself as inaccessible as possible, in order to excite indignation against the governor.

Into the merits of these quarrels it is not my intention to enter. With all my feeling of partiality for the emperor, I have often doubted whether any human being could have filled the situation of Sir Hudson Lowe, without becoming embroiled with his unhappy captive. The very title with which he was accosted, and the manner of addressing him when contrasted with the devotion of those around him, must have seemed almost insulting; and the emperor was most brusque and uncompromising in showing his dislike to any one who did not please him. The necessary restrictions on his personal liberty would always have been a fruitful source of discord. And even had Napoleon himself been inclined to submit to his fate with equanimity, it is doubtful whether his followers would have allowed him. Accustomed as they had been to the gaiety and brilliancy of the French capital, their "*sejour*," to use their own words, on that lone island, could not fail to be "*affreux*." And as they were generally the medium of communication between Napoleon and the authorities, the correspondence would necessarily be tinged with more or less of the bitterness of their feelings. Their very devotion to the emperor would make them too tenacious and exacting with regard to the deference his situation entitled him to; and thus orders and regulations, which only seemed to the authorities indispensable to his security, became a crime in their eyes, and were represented to the emperor as gratuitous and cruel insults.

Napoleon, too, in the absence of every thing more worthy of supplying food to his mighty intellect, did not disdain to interest himself in the merest trifles. My father has often described him as appearing as much absorbed and occupied in the details of some petty squabble with the governor, as if the fate of empires had been under discussion. He has often made us laugh with his account of the ridiculous way in which Napoleon spoke of Sir Hudson Lowe; but their disputes were generally on subjects so trivial, that I deem it my duty to draw a veil over the last infirmities of so noble a mind.

One circumstance I may relate

Napoleon wishing to learn English, procured some English books, and amongst them "*Aesop's Fables*" were sent him. In one of the fables the sick lion, after submitting with fortitude to the insults of the many animals who came to exult over his fallen greatness, at last received a kick in the face from the ass.

"I could have borne every thing but this," the lion said.

Napoleon showed the woodcut, and added, "It is me and your governor."

Amongst other accusations against Napoleon, some writers have said that he was deficient in courage. He always gave me the idea on the contrary of being constitutionally fearless. I have already mentioned his feats of horsemanship; and the speed with which his carriage generally tore along the narrow mountainous roads of St. Helena would have been intolerable to a timid person. I have more than once seen gentlemen, whose horses were rather skittish, obliged to turn, to their great annoyance, when the emperor approached almost at speed, and fairly take to their heels, pursued by him, until they reached an open space where they could pass his carriage without danger of their horses shying and going down a precipice.

He had a description of jaunting car, in which he yoked three Cape horses abreast in the French style. And if he got any one into this, he seldom let his victim out until he had frightened him heartily.

One day he told General Gouraud to make his horse rear, and put his fore-paws into the carriage, to my great terror. He seemed indeed to possess no nerves himself, and to laugh at the existence of fear in others.

Napoleon, as far as I was capable of judging, could not be considered fond of literature. He seldom introduced the topic in conversation, and I suspect his reading was confined almost solely to scientific subjects. I have heard him speak slightly of poets, and call them "*recrues*"; and still I believe the most visionary of them all was the only one he ever read. But his own and undefined schemes of ambition seemed to have found something congenial in the dreamy sublimities of Ossian.

## OWRE TRUE A TALE.

BY AN OBJECT.

In the day of our ancestors it was customary for the students at the Scotch universities to reside within the buildings of the respective colleges; and a strict submission was enforced to the rules imposed by the legal authorities for the management of those institutions and the guidance of the young attending them.

About the time, however, when the following incident took place, a growing impatience of the rigid manner in which these by-laws were enforced had been for some time apparent; and the officers of the university had adopted the injudicious plan of curbing the increasing freedom by a vexatious exaction of obedience to the various rules which had become, more especially, the subject of complaint.

Among those who thus rendered themselves in a peculiar degree obnoxious to the fiery and unforgiving Highlanders, who constituted the great majority of the students, was the janitor, or porter of the college of St. Mary's, whose duty principally consisted in reporting the names of those who remained without the gates later than the hour appointed as that at which all students should be in their respective apartments. Being a man of austere and overbearing disposition, he executed the trust reposed in him with a rigour which was extremely galling to the more advanced students, whose proud Highland blood could ill brook the control of a base-born Sassenach door-keeper; and who knowing that all complaints against such a tyrant would prove fruitless, vented their ill-suppressed animosity in all the various petty annoyances which young men are so ready to invent and so apt to put in practice.

At the social season of Christmas, when the cold bleak winds make young hearts beat more warmly, the students, according to their usual custom, resolved to enjoy themselves in the way most congenial to their habits and circumstances, and even the surly janitor became less gruff than usual. In the midst of the overflowing frolic and happiness of the season, however, something occurred to rouse the smothered hatred against him, and a plan was soon devised to heighten the general sport at the expense of the ungracious individual.

During the evening of Hogmanay, a night on which the professors were accustomed to meet and welcome in the coming year in the society of themselves and families, the students prepared their annual *fête* on the occasion; but it was evident, from the twinkle of their eyes, that some fun more racy than usual was in contemplation, and the keen watch kept over every transient loiterer bespoke the resolution to keep the secret as close as possible.

The evening at last closed in, and the noisy rioting and play which had continued during the day became more and more confined to the interior of the buildings, particularly to the refreshment-hall and the rooms adjoining, in which



dancing, speech-making, and juggling, seemed each at times to obtain the mastery.

Pond of a "glass," it required but little persuasion to prevail on the janitor to become a partaker in the festivities which were being carried on, and the seducing "glass" in a short time seemed to thaw the usual coldness of his nature. Little art was afterwards required to induce him to retire into an adjoining apartment, where he found himself instantly handcuffed and a prisoner. Surprised at the appearance of the room fitted up as a court of justice, the bench filled by two of the senior students robed as judges, while others dressed in gowns and wigs were ready to officiate as counsel, the janitor hesitated to advance, till the good-humour engendered by the treat he had received from them induced him to join in the ceremony and act the part which was imposed on him in the play intended to be performed. Silence having been obtained, and the authority for holding the mock court proclaimed, it was *fenced*\* in the usual manner; counsel also having been appointed for the prisoner, and all the other ceremonies conducted in legal form, the officers placed the janitor in the panel's seat, and a jury was chosen and sworn in. The officiating advocate-depute then read the indictment, stating that, "whereas by the laws of this and every other well-governed realm, tyranny and oppression are crimes worthy of being visited with all due severity, and are punishable by death or otherwise, &c., yet true it is and of verity that you, John Downie, panel at the bar, did, upon the 10th day of the month of November last past, &c., maliciously commit the said crimes of tyranny and oppression, whereby you have rendered yourself liable to be tried by a jury of your peers and countrymen, &c. He concluded the paper by asking, "How say you, John Downie, guilty or not guilty?" "Not guilty, my lord," replied the prisoner, and the trial proceeded under the customary forms.

After the examination of the witnesses, a powerful speech from the prisoner's counsel, and a reply from the public prosecutor, the younger judge summed up the evidence, and the jury retired to consult upon their verdict. After an absence of five minutes they re-entered the court and by the foreman returned an unanimous verdict of "Guilty!" which was received by the audience with a buzz of applause.

The senior judge then spoke; and after severely reproving the audience for such an uncharitable display of unchristian feeling towards the deluded person who stood at the bar, proceeded to pass sentence upon him with all gravity and sobriety of demeanour; pointing out the heinousness of his crimes, he besought him to repent of his sins to that Being who alone knows who is sincere, and to trust for forgiveness to that blood which alone can wash out transgressions; and concluded by putting on the black cap and ordaining him "to be carried from the bar to the place of execution, and there, having his eyes blindfolded, to suffer death by having his head severed from his body by the blow or blows of an axe. This I pronounce as doom, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul!"

The prisoner was thereupon delivered over to the sheriff, and by him conducted into another room hung round with the red gowns of the students, and at the upper end of which stood a block, surrounded and sprinkled over with saw-dust near which stood an appropriate executioner, armed with a new and bright axe. The door was afterwards locked.

Hitherto the good humour of the janitor had not failed him; but sundry misgivings which at moments had passed across his brain now rushed into his mind at once, and convinced him that these sons of fierce and lawless chiefs actually intended to sacrifice him to their ill-concealed hatred and revenge. Remonstrance was followed by threats, and threats were succeeded by rage, but all were equally unavailing: the handcuffs rendered him powerless, and the gaoler and his assistants firmly restrained his attempts to liberate himself. Impotent rage at last gave place to craven fear, and promises, prayers, and entreaties, were poured out by the unhappy man in all the agony of anticipated yet unexpected death. Five minutes were allowed him to make his peace with Heaven and a priest approached to offer him the consolations of religion. In vain did the ill-fated man appeal to his ghostly comforter,—in vain beseeching him to put an end to such a gloomy play. He was calmly advised to use the short time in applying for mercy where it could be granted, and not waste the few moments of his life which remained in fruitless appeals to his fellow-men. The allowed period at length elapsed, and the doomed man was blindfolded, and laid upon the block; his neck was bared, and the preconcerted signal (the word Death) was followed by the sudden descent of—a wet towel across the prisoner's neck, and a simultaneous burst of laughter from the assembled crowd.

The janitor moved not; they touched him,—he spoke not; he lay an unsouled clod! Eye met eye, and faces pale with fear,

"There was silence deep as death,  
And the boldest held his breath  
For a time!"

The medical students attempted by every means in their power to recall the suspended animation; but the spirit had already passed that hour from whence no traveller returns, and his existence was recorded "among the things which were!"

Consternation and alarm filled the minds of the students. They were addressed by the one who had acted as senior judge, who, referring to the melancholy catastrophe which had so unexpectedly taken place, suggested, that as all were equally concerned in designing and approving of the scheme, it would be both unjust and cowardly to suffer those who had acted the more conspicuous parts solely to become liable to the offended laws of their country; and that, as there had been no witnesses except themselves to any part of the transaction, he proposed that all should be bound by a solemn oath to the most inviolable secrecy, and that they should adopt the most effectual plan to get rid of every thing which could in the smallest degree implicate them in the unforced tragedy. Such an appeal had its intended effect on generous young men bewildered by the awful situation in which they were placed. A solemn oath was individually taken, and a consultation held on the manner in which the body was to be disposed of. With celerity, and in silence, every vestige of the court and execution was removed; the doors were locked, and the keys placed in the hands of the corpse, which was laid on its face in the piazza of the college, in the direction of his own house, and within sight of some of the apartments of the students, who remained in a state of watchfulness till daylight.

Long, dreary, and restless was that night in the college of St. Mary, and the young year dawned on many a troubled brow. In the morning the body was found, the professors informed, the town was alarmed; and the students immediately suspected. Examinations were made by the professors, and recognitions taken by the public prosecutor. Rumour breathed a whisper of a trick to be played on Downie, and some students were taken into custody on suspicion of being implicated; yet nothing could be brought home to any one. Faithfully they stood, "shoulder to shoulder," and none could inform against them.

That the man had been by some means killed by the students was the firm belief of every inhabitant in the place; but how, or by what means, was to all

\* In Scotland the Courts of Justice are opened, or *fenced*, by prayer.

a mystery. Poison was generally pointed to as being the most certain and least apparent means of having accomplished the object; but, from examination, no trace of any such could be found, although the lower class of inhabitants broadly and stoutly affirmed that the medical men employed were unwilling to declare their opinion, lest some of their own friends should be proved to have been actors in the sudden tragedy. Nor was it unasserted that the sudden death of Downie was a cool and deliberate murder planned and completed by the angry and vindictive Highlanders: the subsequent proceedings certainly gave great countenance to this conjecture.

The corpse was removed to the chapel of the college early on the following morning, and was visited during the day by great numbers of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, many of whom insisted that the students should undergo an ordeal at that time considered infallible in its effects, namely, that on the murderer touching, or even approaching, the body of the murdered man, the blood would spring afresh from every wound, or even from the mouth and nostrils, if no external wounds were apparent. So clamorous had the public become on this subject towards evening that the professors considered it absolutely necessary, for the preservation of the peace, to declare that, during the next day, the catalogue of the students should be produced, and each, on the calling of his name, should advance, and lay his hand upon the body. The remnants of gross superstition were as yet so warped around the early education of the natives of the wild moors and glens of the Highlands, that it can excite but little surprise if several of the students felt far from comfortable at the thought of such an experiment, while others, perfectly convinced of the futility of the test, offered to be the first to go through the ceremony and in order to convince those who felt any doubt on the subject, volunteered to approach and touch the body early on the following morning. Among those who thus came forward were the student who acted as senior judge, two or three of the counsel, several of the jury, and the executioner. No argument could prevail on the younger judge to undergo the experiment, or to come under the same roof with the dead man. Morning came, and the students took the earliest unsuspected opportunity of approaching the corpse, and each in some way touching the uncovered skin, but no symptoms of recognition was displayed by the inanimate mass; the icy chill of death had frozen up the blood in too secure a bond to permit of its coursing through or from the veins; and the most guilty actors rejoined their companions, unaccused, and able to urge their example as a proof of the inutility of the test.

At twelve o'clock, the students met in the public hall of the college, and proceeded to the chapel, where the ceremony was to take place. The solemn ordeal which they were about to pass through in the presence of the professors, robed and seated in formal state, and of the populace stationed around the lower end of the chapel, excited by evil passions, and muttering curses, "not loud but deep," produced effects on the students as varied as their natures. The quickened breathing and restless eye of one betrayed at least the wish that the scene was well over; while the half-shut eye of his neighbour, glancing from beneath the bushy eyebrow, bespoke the latent humour with which its possessor regarded the expression of the feelings and passions of those around him.

Apprehension and suspicion created an oppressive silence, as the first on the list, a medical student, on his name being called, advanced to the middle of the chapel. Every eye was fixed upon him as he calmly and fearlessly laid his hand upon the cold clammy brow of the corpse. A murmur of satisfaction rose from the populace, while a load seemed lifted off the minds of several of the students, as he returned to his seat unpolluted by the accusing blood of the pallid corpse. Another and another followed, and still the gory stream refused to flow. The ninth was he who had been the younger judge. He sprang from his seat on his name being pronounced, and staggered forwards to the dreaded spot. Slowly he lifted his trembling arm and laid his hand upon the senseless mass. He moved one step and fell extended on the floor. He was lifted up and carried to the air, and from thence to his lodgings, still in a state of insensibility. After a short delay, the ceremony proceeded, and was concluded without further interruption.

Disappointed in their expectations of the body accusing its murderers, yet satisfied that it must have been the students, the rabble vented their spleen against the young man who had fainted, vociferating loudly for his instant committal into custody; and it was only at a late hour, and on the solemn assurance of the professors that they would take the necessary steps on the following day for his re-examination, and, if necessary, consign him to prison, that the exasperated inhabitants retired to their homes.

The ill feeling which in general existed between the inhabitants and students had not been diminished by these occurrences, and the more daring and fearless of the latter resolved to proceed a step further than they had hitherto done, and show the townsmen that they held their threats of revenge at contemptuous defiance.

The day following had been appointed for the funeral, and the body remained in the chapel, watched during the night by three of the nearest male relatives of the deceased in the adjoining sacristy. The night was dark and lowering, and the door of the chapel was locked inside as the watchers commenced their wearisome vigil. At intervals of about an hour one or other of them walked across the chapel to see that all was safe; but no sound disturbed the dreariness except an occasional howl of the wind or a moan of the leafless trees at the back of the chapel. Favoured by the warmth of the fire, and by the hearty supper the watchers had been provided with, sleep at last usurped its natural power, and the three became wrapped in sound repose. On awaking towards morning, they proceeded to the chapel, and found all apparently in its former state. The pall covered the coffin and the door was shut. In fact, the keys were in their own possession, and it was only on attempting to open the lock some hours afterwards that they found it damaged, and the door only kept closed by a small nail and piece of string. Suspicion was roused; the coffin was found to have been removed, and a long box substituted in its place, carefully covered with the velvet pall.

Snow had fallen thickly and heavily during the early morning, and no foot-marks could be detected near the door.

The excitement in the town was increased tenfold. The professors of the college and the magistracy of the town entered zealously and spiritedly into a thorough examination of every one in the smallest degree likely to throw any light on these occurrences; yet their utmost exertions were fruitless. The student who had fainted on the preceding day was missing, and the only tidings that could be procured of him were that he had on the previous evening been called to the door by his cousin, and neither of them had since been seen.

The only other glimmer of information that could be procured was from a female, who, having had occasion to be abroad a little after midnight, was found on the street next morning in a state of insanity raving about "devils" and "the dead face munching to the hellish lights."

The conclusion of the session dismissed the students to their several destinations, but the mystery still continued unsolved.



By judicious treatment the woman, in the course of the summer, slowly regained her reasoning powers, and was able at intervals to state that, being on her way home from visiting a sick bed in the middle of the night above mentioned, she suddenly found herself surrounded by people moving along in silence, and apparently carrying something heavy. A thick cloth was thrown over her head and her hands tied behind her back. A handkerchief having been tied firmly over her mouth, the cloth was then removed, and she was forced to proceed along with the others to a hollow ground about half a mile beyond the town, where the whole party halted. After some considerable delay, during which she heard the sound of spades striking against earth and stones (although, owing to the darkness of the night, she could perceive nothing), she was removed in the same speechless silence which had all along been maintained to a small mound of soft earth. A large bluish flame appeared at a small distance from her, which was immediately followed by about a dozen others, some of which were yellow. By the faint light of them she perceived a number of people around the place, of whom several were not so tall as herself, but all were habited in long robes of black or white, while the faces of the whole were carefully covered up with black crape or gauze, through which she occasionally perceived their eyes gleaming in the light. A movement took place at her side, and a large box was laid at her feet. It was a coffin. The lid was unfastened and was quietly removed. A dead body lay before her, decked out in all the habiliments of the tomb. She knew the face well; it was Downie's. After standing for a short time with his hands raised above the body, one person seated himself with a paper in his hand on one side of the coffin, while she was placed at its head. The other individuals came forward one by one, and taking hold of the right hand of the dead man with one hand, placed his other hand on his own breast, and bowing his head to her, slowly passed on to make way for another. After all, apparently, had advanced, the chief actor pointed with his finger to one part of the list, and another was led forward supported on each side. He seemed unconscious of what was taking place, but went through the same form as the others. The lights were then fastened to the sides of the open coffin and lowered along with it into a hole. She was forcibly held over the edge, and as her brain reeled with terror, the lights, varying their colours to greens of every hue, danced around the grinning countenance of the corpse. The word "Ready" fell with a piercing clang upon her ear, one rumbling crash, loud as the thunder, followed, the lights were smothered, and—she knew no more.

### TATTLE.

BY MRS. S. C. HALL.

"Have you seen Miss Fanny Murray?" inquired Mrs. Spooner of her "grand" neighbour Mrs. Caunter.

"Not yet," was the reply.

"Well, you have no loss. She is a keen clever girl, I am sure of that, and that is odious enough; moreover, she is little, and, I think, a *little* crooked; red-haired, gray-eyed, and such a nose! down at this end and up at that. The idea of calling her pretty! Why, she's a positive fright. I don't know when I saw so plain a young woman. Then her manners are forward; she will sit and sing by the hour, before a roomful of company, without the smallest hesitation. It is a great pity, poor thing, she rouses so badly. If a woman, particularly a young woman, must rouge, I think she owes it to society to put it on decently."

"Perhaps," urged Mrs. Caunter good naturedly, "it was the heat of the weather that provoked her complexion when you saw her."

"Not at all my dear madam. I could not be mistaken; indeed I thought I would tell Mrs. Lilly, her friend of it; but, after all, it was wiser to hold my tongue, and, as I have daughters of my own, she might say I was jealous!—jealous indeed, for Anne and Louisa—of her—of Miss Murray!" The informant paused, glanced suspiciously around the room, as if she feared some one was hidden behind the curtains or beneath the sofas, and then drawing her chair a little closer to Mrs. Caunter, ventured upon what few dared hazard with that stately lady—a more confidential communication than usual. "I don't care to busy myself, not I, about what is no concern of mine; but I assure you, she is not the heiress they represent her. Mr. John Lilly is her man of business, knows her affairs, and he told Mr. Spooner she was very badly off, and that little considerably dipped—involved."

"Indeed," said Mrs. Caunter, interested, perhaps for the first time in Mrs. Spooner's conversation, from the fact of having a marriageable son.

"Yes, indeed, he told Mr. Spooner that even our daughters were better provided for than Miss Murray."

"Very injudicious," observed Mrs. Caunter, "for a lawyer to talk about his client's affairs."

"Oh, he spoke out in confidence to Mr. Spooner, you know; gentlemen will talk over their wine sometimes; only I desire every thing straightforward, and I do not like a girl to be cried up as a great beauty and an heiress who has no pretension to be considered either."

Mrs. Caunter did not encourage the conversation, though too apt at observing and combining, not to be also fond of what is technically called "news." Though by no means uninterested in the question of a pretty girl's fortunes, she scorned to owe her information to a person she despised; and so Mrs. Spooner, having got rid of a portion of inconvenient bitterness, in what she considered a judicious place, bade Mrs. Caunter good morning with a smile that was unreturned, and went her way.

In a few minutes after her departure Mrs. Johnes entered, and Miss Murray as the last arrival in the country town where the ladies resided, was immediately brought again upon the tapis by a talkative but kind visitor. "I think," said the lady, "I have seldom dwelt with more pleasure upon any face than on that of Miss Murray; the longer you look, the greater number of beauties you discover; then, her manners are so fascinating, kind, and cheerful, without a particle of forwardness; and when you ask her to sing, instead of making a fuss about it, like most young ladies, she sits down immediately, and will sing you song after song, without the slightest affectation. I am sure you will admire her complexion, it is the purest and fairest I ever saw. The faint rose colour that tinges her cheek is like the blush on the most delicate rose."

"Persons with red hair generally do have complexions more or less delicate," suggested Mrs. Caunter.

"Red hair!" exclaimed Mrs. Johnes in a tone of mingled horror and astonishment; "who could have told you that? her hair is of a pale—perhaps I might add, a warm shade of brown—but brown it decidedly is, harmonising admirably with her dark blue eyes."

"Gray," interrupted Mrs. Caunter.

"They are of so deep a blue, as to be almost violet," persisted Mrs. Johnes.

"Now who was malicious enough to call them gray?"

"Different opinions may be formed of eyes as well as of other things," replied

Mrs. Caunter; "but pray tell me, if Miss Murray is little, crooked, and cock-nosed?"

Mrs. Johnes cast up her hands and eyes indignantly. "She is, madam," she answered, when somewhat recovered from her displeasure; "She is an inch taller than myself, and I suppose no one would call me 'little.' As for her being crooked, she is as straight as it is possible for any one to be. Her nose is, indeed, retronssé, but only enough so to give expression to a face which would otherwise be tame."

When Mrs. Johnes had retired, Mrs. Caunter found it impossible to form a just estimate of Miss Murray's person and accomplishments upon such conflicting evidence. She therefore wisely determined to keep her mind free from all opinion on the subject, until an introduction to the young lady should afford her an opportunity of judging for herself. Meantime, she thought it would be advisable to keep her son Edward aloof from all the fascinations of the fair stranger, till she could make up her mind respecting her. For her nephew Harold—then on a visit to his aunt—she had also apprehensions. Mrs. Caunter was therefore not very pleased to receive a note from her son, stating that he and his cousin were going to dine with "John Lilly, to meet Miss Murray in a friendly way;" for it was at his house that the reputed heiress was staying. "A friendly dinner, indeed," mused Mrs. Caunter, somewhat alarmed; "admitting of all the ease and delicacy of a *demi toilette*, which an artful girl knows how to use with grace and effect." But this was not all; at ten o'clock Harold sent home for his flute, and at eleven Edward sent for the music of "*I Puritani*." It struck one before the young gentlemen returned home, and to their real sorrow they found Mrs. Caunter sitting up for them. She did not like to betray her anxiety on the subject by asking their opinion of Miss Murray; and a certain something prevented Harold from saying a word about the young lady; while Edward—seeing that his cousin had absolutely, calm and quiet though he was, fallen truly in love with the fair stranger—spared him any observations. So the trio parted in a constrained manner.

"I see," thought Mrs. Caunter, "Mrs. Spooner, vulgar and prejudiced though she be, was, I daresay, right upon one point: I am sure that Miss Murray is one of your keen clever girls."

How dangerous is the scratch of a poisoned arrow!

Miss Murray was, in reality, neither the perfection represented by Mrs. Johnes, nor the person described by Mrs. Spooner. She was an affectionate, unaffected, gentle girl, with the capability of remaining firm and steadfast in a good cause; and yet had the power of *adapting* herself to the ways and manners of those with whom she associated. The neighbourhood she had just entered was new and amusing to her in every respect. She had spent her early days in the deep retirement of a country house, where right thoughts and right feelings have time to take root; and a two years' residence in London had generalised her ideas, without impairing their strength, and rendered her perhaps inclined to laugh at the petty intolerance and overweening vanity of such as imagine a country town to be "the world!" Yet her laugh was so musical of good nature, that it was as pleasant to the heart as to the ear; and if Mrs. Spooner's observations had not been circulated, Fanny Murray would have been decidedly as popular as the favourite candidate always is *before* his election. But I have not met one in a score, perhaps not one person in a hundred, who, however convinced of the worthlessness of the source from which an evil report springs, can nevertheless disabuse his or her mind at *once* of its influence, and be in feeling as if the evil had never tainted the heart. We all want faith in each other's virtues, and the more we feel inclined to doubt the truth, or purity, or justice of our fellow-men, so much the more should we feel inclined to doubt the truth, and purity, and justice of our own hearts.

Mrs. Caunter was not far wrong in her judgment when she thought that both her son and nephew would most likely be captivated, at least for a time, by the new face that had come amongst them. Edward was won by her playing, and Harold by her singing; both by her general fascination. Edward, grave and sedate by nature, full of the dignity of "the son and heir," was somewhat piqued by the light-hearted mirth that paid no respect to his "position in society," and seemed to think all his attentions were matters of course; while the pretentious Harold was touched by the deep-toned feeling not only of her voice, but conversation, which replied to his accomplished words as if she appreciated the mind of a poor cousin as fully as that of a rich heir.

All the gossips in the town and its immediate neighbourhood were alive with the news that the two Mr. Caunters had spent the evening at Mrs. Lilly's. Everybody declared that both admired Miss Murray. Mrs. Spooner, upon being told this at a very early hour by her good-natured next-door neighbour Mrs. Johnes, averred, while every hair on her head bristled with indignation, "that Mrs. Johnes must have been misinformed; that she had every reason to know better; that Mrs. Caunter had too much good sense to trust her son within the vortex of a syren—a girl without a penny, whose very expectations were involved."

The gossips soon had more food for tattle provided to their never-ceasing tongues. Edward and Harold Caunter had become constant visitors to Mrs. Lilly, and frequent attendants upon the steps of her lovely guest. In truth, it was perceived that a rivalry for her smiles and society had sprung up between the two cousins, who were till now looked upon as the Orestes and Pylades of the town, so strong was their friendship. In fact, the "affair" proceeded so far, that Miss Murray's hostess thought it her duty to try and squeeze out of her young friend what her intentions respecting the young gentlemen really were.

"My dear Fanny," said Mrs. Lilly one morning after breakfast, "my dear Fanny, I was very glad to see you and Edward Caunter looking over those engravings together last night."

"The engravings are very pretty," replied Miss Murray, while her eyes sparkled with a mischievous mischief, which Mrs. Lilly—the most sleepy-headed chaperone who had ever the care of a young lady—did not either like or understand.

"I was not thinking of the engravings, my dear," she answered; "of course they are pretty, or we should not have paid two-and-two-pence a number to that everlasting bookseller's bagman who is continually bringing specimens of all manner of arts, tied by the neck in a blue bag. I was thinking of Mr. Edward Caunter."

"More than I was. Let me see now, three red stitches and two green," replied the young lady, bending over her embroidery.

"What could Mrs. Caunter, the stately Mrs. Caunter, mean by calling here but to sanction her son's addresses?" returned her friend, opening up a new point in the subject.

"She only called to satisfy her curiosity. She could not, stately as she is, issue a mandate—'Miss Murray, come and be looked at.' So as I did not go to see her, she came to see me."

"You are a conceited little puss to say so," said Mrs. Lilly.

"I should be a hypocrite if I thought so without saying it—at least to you who have been so kind to me."



"You will not be kind to yourself, Fanny."

"How so?"

"Why, really, any girl of common sense would have managed a declaration from Edward Caunter before this. The question raised in the town is, which of the cousins is likely to make you the first offer. Harold's attentions have, I assure you, become quite a topic in the neighbourhood; and it does a girl a great deal of harm to have a dangler in constant attendance upon her, who is sure never to be worth a penny—one who writes verses." Fanny bent her head still lower over her Berlin-wool convolvulus; then, raising it suddenly, Mrs. Lilly was discomfited by seeing her face one blaze of sunny laughter.

"I really can't help it, my dear Mrs. Lilly; but what do I care for the town's-people! what do I care for their evil report or good report? what do I care for their being cut up into those microscopic cliques—political, polemical, poetising, and philosophic; and then dividing again, and again, until—like the regiment reduced to a drummer—the last particle cries out, 'I am the body intellectual!' I shall not spend my life amongst them, and so for the present they may talk as they please; they may indeed. I care not what they say."

"This is unwomanly," said her friend; "every woman should care, especially about being married."

"Well, so I do care about it a great deal, and for that reason, let me assure you gravely and seriously, that I have not the slightest desire to entrap the grave Mr. Edward or his very superior cousin; at the same time I must assure you, that if I were to marry either, it would not be Edward."

"Then my dear Fanny, you should not encourage him."

Miss Murray rose from her seat, as though it was now her turn to look angry.

"Nor do I," she replied; "one of the barriers to anything approaching society in a country town is the shameful chatter, the perpetual prying, the watching and whispering, and misrepresenting, because misunderstanding, of every petty occurrence. I cannot and I will not, shut myself up from every human being, particularly those who are the most agreeable here. It must be perfectly well-known that I do not encourage either of those young men as lovers. If either of them be vain enough to suppose they have led captive my heart, when they have only interested my understanding, I cannot help it. I defy them or the scandal-lovers of this place, to adduce one single word or act of coquetry against me; there are reasons why I should be above it, and I trust I am so; but I can hardly expect them to understand or believe this."

Miss Murray having so said, resumed her seat and her embroidery, and Mrs. Lilly went to the breakfast-room to catch her husband before he went out. "My dear John," were her first words, "I do not know what to make of that girl. She perplexes me. From what you told me the other day, she had really next to nothing, and yet she scorns decided advantages in the most imprudent manner. From what I gather from you, it seems doubtful what she will really have, and"—

Mr. Lilly did not permit his wife to finish the sentence. "Doubtful," he repeated; "not at all doubtful; it is perfectly certain that after she is twenty-one years of age, she will not have a sixpence she can call her own."

"My goodness!" exclaimed Mrs. Lilly; "it is really very deplorable that you never told me this before, for the idea has gone abroad that she is rich. What will they say when they discover the contrary?"

One of Mrs. Lilly's strongest peculiarities was, that she could not keep a secret, much less could she conceal from her intimate friends what had been told her without reserve, or any injunctions not to reveal it. Consequently, it soon got trumpeted forth that Fanny Murray would not have a sixpence to call her own after she was twenty-one. For once the town's-people were almost united; the literateurs, the politicians, the controversialists of all kinds, sought to be the first to open "Mrs. Caunter's eyes," as they expressed it. The schoolmistress carried the tale to the housekeeper's room at Caunter hall; and the milliner and shoemaker sent in "their little accounts" to Miss Murray, with a pressing demand for payment, "as they had bills to make up that week." Every one wondered that she presumed to dress so well, and had the imprudence to give five pounds to the charity school, when she might so soon want it herself. While the fact of her being rich or poor was a question, she had a great many defenders; but poverty is a wonderful queller of the *vox populi*. Those who used to court to Miss Murray, nodded; and many wondered "where their eyes were" when they called her a beauty. Still she had not lost all her supporters. The very young, who did not care for wealth, still enjoyed her frank, unaffected kindness; and her voice was the joy-bell to every child who knew her. Several held altogether aloof from "poor Fanny Murray," until they saw "what Mrs. Caunter did"—until that great lady made some demonstration by which they could steer.

One evening, when these doubts agitated the minds of the gossips of the town, the unfortunate subject of them sealed her fate by a circumstance which was overseen by Mrs. Spooner, who lived opposite to the Lillys, and who had been on the watch for "news" about Miss Murray during a whole week, never having stirred from her parlour window except to dine. It was after nine o'clock, and she beheld Mr. Edward Caunter rap at her opposite neighbour's door. He went in—what could he want? Whom did he ask for? Time would show; and the persevering spy determined to be patient. A half-hour passed—nearly an hour—when lo! the front door opened, and Mr. Edward Caunter walked slowly forth—not towards his own home, but in a contrary direction! How very mysterious. The mystery, however, did not end here. Mrs. Spooner was in the act of drawing down her blinds, as if to drop the curtain upon a drama which she thought had concluded, when, to her astonishment, she heard a second knock at Mr. Lilly's door. Who could it be? She strained her eyeballs to be certain, and the light of the street-lamp revealed to her the form of Mr. Harold Caunter entering the house. The affair was now getting serious: the responsibility became too great for a single witness, and she determined to step in next door and convince Mrs. Johnes, by the evidence of her own vision, of Miss Murray's incorrectness. That good lady unwillingly consented to join her neighbour in the watch, and two pair of eyes were soon rivetted on Mr. Lilly's door. The catastrophe approached. Mr. Edward Caunter was seen returning in the distance; and, by a strange coincidence, just as he passed the house, who should issue from it but his cousin Harold! The meeting was manifestly embarrassing; they regarded each other for some minutes without speaking; then they talked in suppressed tones, which gradually became loud and angry; till at last they walked hastily away, and their words and their persons were soon lost in the distance.

"What do you think of that?" exclaimed Mrs. Spooner triumphantly. Mrs. Johnes was so surprised, that she professed herself perfectly unable to arrange her thoughts on the subject; and Mrs. Spooner—determined not to mar the effect she had produced upon her friend's mind by another word—retired home to her couch, not to sleep, but to lose herself in conjecture, amazement, and indignation.

The next morning brought new wonders. Mrs. Caunter's carriage was observed, at the unusual hour of twelve o'clock, to draw up at Mr. Lilly's door. It

was also rumoured that her footman actually inquired for Miss Murray, and that it was to her the visit was paid.

These rumours were true. Mrs. Caunter, on entering the parlour into which she was shown, found herself in the presence of Miss Murray, who did not betray the slightest degree of confusion beyond a deep blush which mantled her cheeks, and then left her paler than usual. Mrs. Caunter drew her chair opposite to where the young lady sat, and fixed her penetrating eyes upon her. Fanny neither avoided nor returned the gaze, but waited patiently for Mrs. Caunter to open the communication, whatever it might be.

"I go out very seldom, Miss Murray," said the lady, "or I would have returned your visit; but though I go out very little, I hear a great deal." Miss Murray smiled faintly. "You will pardon me," continued the dignified lady, "I am sure, for speaking somewhat abruptly, as I am about to do, upon a delicate subject."

"Pray do not hesitate," said Miss Murray, with some emotion.

Still, Mrs. Caunter looked perplexed. "My son Edward, Miss Murray, has, I think, paid you some attention, but yet not so much as his feelings prompted him." Miss Murray bowed. "And my nephew, Harold, too, has, I think, been equally devoted." Again Miss Murray bowed. "I am sorry to tell you, that these attachments have caused this morning a quarrel of so serious a nature between them, that I dread to think of its consequences. Can you give me any clue to this? Is it, or is it not true, that yesterday evening Edward had an interview with you? Do you object to tell me what passed at that interview?" Miss Murray seemed too agitated to speak, and Mrs. Caunter continued. "I do not heed the idle and malicious reports of the neighbourhood; I do not care for want of fortune in the future wife of my son, whoever she may be; but I am especially careful concerning her mind and character." Fanny Murray looked so indignant, that Mrs. Caunter paused. "I do not, believe me, wish to insinuate anything against yours; but if my form of speech be uneven or rude, forgive me this once. I do intreat you, Miss Murray, tell me what passed yesterday evening."

"Why did you not ask Mr. Caunter?" said Miss Murray, greatly distressed; "he could tell you what I cannot."

"But he would not," replied his mother. "I urged him in every way: he was exceedingly angry at my knowing that you met last night."

"It was by accident, I assure you," interrupted the young lady.

"So Edward said; but something must have occurred to make him so enraged, so unlike himself. He insulted Harold in the bitterest manner; and Harold, I fear, is not one to bear an insult tamely."

"I assure you, madam, most earnestly, that your nephew has nothing whatever to do with—what occurred between Mr. Caunter and myself yesterday. I told him so; I implored him most earnestly to believe me—and now I as earnestly intreat you to seek your son and to repeat it."

"You have seen Harold, then, I presume?"

"I have. I saw him last night, after I had parted from his cousin."

"Really, Miss Murray," said Mrs. Caunter, "you must permit me to say that this is very strange conduct on the part of a young lady. Edward was here till ten o'clock last night. Did you see Harold after that hour?"

"I did," replied the young lady; "though really you must forgive me for saying that I do not see what right you, a comparative stranger, have to question me."

There was a pause. At length Mrs. Caunter said, with some little excitement, "I ask but a simple explanation of what passed between you and my son Edward last night; you refuse it, and leave me impressed in a way I am sorry to be; for I sought to believe, that to the attractions you possess, you added one greater than beauty—ingenueness. You meet, it seems, my nephew by appointment, and—"

Fanny did not permit Mrs. Caunter to finish the sentence. Her cheek flushed to a crimson, which even her slanderers must have confessed no rouge could imitate. She advanced to her visitor with much dignity of manner, and said, "Forgive me if I withdraw. Within a very short time you will deeply lament having joined in an evil report against an orphan girl. I am quite aware that my personal appearance—that what I did and did not do—has afforded conversation for your neighbours ever since my arrival amongst them. At first, I could laugh at this, and hope that it would not influence those whose good opinion is of value. I am grieved that it has influenced yours. You will be obliged to change it; but until you do, I owe it to myself"—Miss Murray paused, and then added with much emotion—"and to another dearer than myself, not to hear my conduct and motives impugned with impunity." Before Mrs. Caunter had time to reply, Fanny Murray had left the room. She had hardly got into her own chamber, when Mrs. Lilly, all weakness and wonder, curtsied herself into the great lady's presence, offering apologies, without knowing why: having heard something of what had passed, she guessed a great deal more; and Mrs. Caunter had not left the house two hours, before it seemed as though some new and extraordinary event had happened to set all the women in the town gadding and talking. They discoursed about the two Mr. Caunters being "inveigled by Miss Murray," "Mrs. Caunter carried in a swoon from Mr. Lilly's house, after calling Miss Murray the poisoner of her peace." "Mrs. Lilly in tears to her husband, and on her knees, beseeching him to send such a peniless unprincipled creature from her house." Ladies, who had never known the eclat of refusing a lover, were outrageously indignant at the idea of Miss Murray having "entrapped" two at a time. A damsel, enthusiastic in matters of sentiment, perpetrated a "little lampoon," just for private circulation, on the subject of ladies meeting cousins after dark. The great literary oracle talked of writing an essay upon the natural weakness of female principle; and the rival M.D.'s agreed for once that Miss Murray looked very like a person who had hereditary insanity. This construction upon the strange things attributed to the poor girl was considered very charitable and Christian-like by several of the best disciplinarians in the town. But Miss Murray might have been even still more severely handled by those worthies, but for the sudden vanishment of Harold Caunter, who was reported to have mounted his horse one fine morning—the morning after Mrs. Caunter's last interview with Miss Murray—and disappeared.

Caunter Hall was beset with visitors for two entire days after these events; but all who called, even the most intimate, were received with a polite "Not at home." A peep into Mr. Lilly's house would have convinced any one that Mrs. Lilly was anxious, Miss Murray ill, Mr. Lilly amused; in fact, Mr. Lilly was not troubled with much feeling. He did not observe that his fair ward was suffering from anxiety; and if he had, he would have thought that, like Mrs. Lilly, she would certainly have a fit of hysterics, and get well immediately.

"Have you heard anything direct from Harold?" inquired Mrs. Caunter of Edward a few days after his cousin's departure.

"No, mother," he replied sullenly; "but I daresay Miss Murray could tell, if she would, all about him. For my own part, I never wish to see his face again."



"Edward! oh, Edward!" exclaimed the mother's trembling lips.

"To be foiled by him, and foiled by her," he continued bitterly. "I would not, could not, confess it even to you, mother," he continued; "but to be refused by a girl that current report says has not a sixpence—"

"Refused!" repeated Mrs. Caunter in utter astonishment.

"Yes," he muttered between his clenched teeth, "and doubtless laughed, sneered at, by every creature before whom the young lady has paraded me as her rejected admirer."

"You do her wrong," said Mrs. Caunter, whose nature was far more generous than her son's, though she could hardly comprehend any woman refusing him. "You do her wrong; even to me she would not tell what passed between you, and I now regret that I behaved so strangely."

"What exclaimed Edward; "did you see her?"

Mrs. Caunter told him the entire truth, and even Edward—loath as he was to suppose how any girl could reject him, but still more how any penniless girl could do so—was touched by the firmness she displayed in refusing to tell the mortifying fact, even to his mother; still, her conduct with regard to Harold was inexplicable. The cousin's mysterious absence was, however, soon cleared up; for while the mother and son were talking, the postman brought a letter informing Mrs. Caunter that the writer had gone to meet an old schoolfellow in Paris on business which admitted not of a moment's delay.

Some weeks after, the maids were busily occupied in washing out the areas, rolling up the blinds, and opening the windows of the houses in the principal street of the town that had been the scene of these events: the milk women, trim and tidy, were sidling along with their bright tin measures, and the first coach that passed through from London had rattled through the town; the brightness of the young day was over all things, and the pure fresh air of morning was balmy and fragrant even in the streets of a close country town; when a post-chaise dashed down the street, and to the astonishment of a group of gossiping servants, drew up at Mr. Lilly's door. Out of it sprang two gentlemen.

"My!" exclaimed Mrs. Spooner's maid; "if there isn't Mr. Harold Caunter, and a grander than he. I must run and wake my missus, or she'd never forgive me." In half an hour, as the servants afterwards declared, "the whole street was up;" and no wonder, for the bells were pealing forth their most noisy music; the clergyman was observed walking arm in arm with Mr. Lilly to his house. The whole place was in a bustle; Mrs. Caunter was seen to alight at, and once more enter the door of Mr. Lilly's house, where she was received by Harold. She was not in Miss Murray's presence one instant, before she perceived that her cheeks were hollow, and her eyes sunken and heavy; that her figure had lost its roundness, and that much of the buoyancy of her manner was gone.

"Have words, unkindly and lightly spoken, done this?" thought Mrs. Caunter, when she had a moment to think, which, however, Harold hardly permitted. He hastened to introduce his aunt to his old friend, Sir Felix Raymond, the betrothed husband of Fanny Murray! Family reasons of the utmost importance prevented their marriage until the lady reached the age of twenty-one, whilst, in the meantime, it was necessary that their engagement should be kept secret. Property to a large amount would have been placed in imminent jeopardy but for these precautions. Other explanations followed from Miss Murray's own lips. She had been so fully engrossed by her affection for Sir Felix Raymond, that Edward Caunter's passionate declaration of love took her pre-occupied mind by surprise; and having refused him, she was far too honourable to own she had done so to his mother. On the other hand, Harold's passion received a check, in a letter addressed to him by his friend Sir Felix; "fortunately," as he said, "before his heart was altogether gone." By this he was made acquainted with the secret attachment, and became the medium of communication between the lovers; thus exciting the suspicions which gave Mrs. Caunter so much uneasiness by being sometimes seen alone with Miss Murray, and on the last occasion at an unreasonable hour. This interview occurred, when at length the reasons for secrecy ceased; and Miss Murray—at the suggestion of Mr. Lilly, her man of business—intrusted Harold with some important papers, which it was necessary should be placed in the hands of Sir Felix in Paris.

Thus ended an explanation which cost Miss Murray some effort—from the weak condition she was in—to get through. This Mrs. Caunter observed with bitter self-reproach; seeing that if she had been decided in her manner towards Miss Murray, no one would have dared to whisper. She, too, who knew them all so well. It is those who lead in their own sphere of what is called "the world," who have the greatest sins to answer for in those matters. The wedding-day was fixed; but when it came, the bride was in the clutches of a fierce fever. Harold had managed to keep the chattering of the people from the ears of Sir Felix, and had endeavoured with his aunt to work upon Edward, so as to heal the wound his pride and self-love had received, and which prompted him to the not very uncommon revenge of saying as many bitter things as he could of the lady by whom he was rejected. The gossipers—although, of course, their tone of gossip was changed—still talked; and in one of those unaccountable ways by which stories are carried, Sir Felix heard something which he traced to Edward Caunter. A duel was the immediate consequence; and for several weeks Mrs. Caunter had to watch by the bedside of her son, who had received his adversary's fire in his shoulder. Fanny Murray recovered slowly, and in process of time was married; but her buoyant spirit had been too severely shattered to regain its elasticity for many years. Mrs. Caunter took a dislike to the town, which all Miss Murray's poetry could not remove, though the same fair hand that traced an anonymous lampoon, penned a "bridal sonnet," something about Felix and Felicia. She and her son left the neighbourhood in disgust; and Harold, fine generous fellow that he was, went abroad, deprived of the society of his dearest friend, because, of course, he could not associate with Sir Felix for some years, after what had occurred with his cousin. This is no idle tale—no invention. Who is there that has not started from, or observed the effects of gossip-stings, winged by the small talk of tattlers?

## ADVENTURES IN LOUISIANA.

### THE BLOCKHOUSE.

Supper over, and clenched by a pull at Nathan's whisky flask, we prepared for departure. The Americans threw the choicest parts of the buck over their shoulders, and the old squatter again taking the lead, we resumed our march. The way led us first across a prairie, then through a wood, which was succeeded by a sort of thicket, upon the branches and thorny shrubs of which we left numerous fragments of our dresses. We had walked several miles almost in silence, when Nathan suddenly made a pause, and let the butt-end of his rifle fall heavily on the ground. I took the opportunity to ask him where we were.

"In Louisiana," replied he, "between the Red River, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Mississippi; on French ground, and yet in a country where French

power is worth little. Do you see that?" added he suddenly, seizing my arm, and pulling me a few paces aside, while he pointed to a dark object, that at the distance and in the moonlight, had the appearance of an earthen wall. "Do you know what that is?" repeated the squatter.

"An Indian grave, perhaps," replied I.

"A grave it is," was the answer; "but not of the Redskins. As brave a backwoodsman as ever crossed the Mississippi lies buried there. You are not altogether wrong though. I believe it was once an Indian mound."

While he spoke we were walking on, and I now distinguished a hillock or mound of earth, with nearly perpendicular sides, on which was erected a blockhouse, formed of unhewn cypress trunks, of a solidity and thickness upon which four and twenty pounders would have had some difficulty in making an impression. Its roof rose about ten feet above a palisade enclosing the building, and consisting of stout saplings sharpened at the top, and stuck in the ground at a very short distance from each other, being moreover strengthened and bound together with wattles and branches. The building had evidently been constructed more for a refuge and place of defence than an habitual residence.

A ladder was now lowered, by which we ascended to the top of the mound. There was a small door in the palisades, which Nathan opened and passed through, we following.

The blockhouse was of equal length and breadth, about forty feet square. On entering it we found nothing but the bare walls, with the exception of a wide chimney of sun baked brick, and in one corner a large wooden slab partly imbedded in the ground.

"Don't tread upon that board," said the old man solemnly, as we approached the slab to examine it; "it is holy ground."

"How holy ground?"

"There lies under it as brave a fellow as ever handled axe or rifle. He it was built this blockhouse, and christened it the Bloody Blockhouse—and bloody it proved to be to him. But you shall hear more of it if you like. You shall hear how six American rifles were too many for ninety French and Spanish muskets."

Carleton and I shook our heads incredulously. The Yankee took us both by the arm, led us out of the blockhouse, and through the stockade to a grassy projection of the hillock.

"Ninety French and Spanish muskets," repeated he in a firm voice, and weighing on each word. "Opposed to them were Asa Nolins, with his three brothers, his brother-in-law, a cousin, and their wives. He tell like a brave American as he was, but not alone, for the dead bodies of thirty foes were lying round the blockhouse when he died. They are buried there," added he, pointing to a row of cotton-trees a short distance off, that in the pale moonlight might have been taken for the spectres of the departed; "under these cotton trees they fell, and there they are buried."

The old squatter remained for a short space in his favourite attitude, his hands crossed on his rifle, and his chin resting on them. He seemed to be calling together the recollections of a time long gone by. We did not care to interrupt him. The stillness of the night, the light of the moon and stars, that gave the prairie lying before us the appearance of a silvery sea, the sombre forest on either side of the blockhouse, of which the edges only were lighted up by the moonbeams, the vague allusions our guide had made to some fearful scene of strife and slaughter that had been enacted in this now peaceful glade—all these circumstances combined, worked upon our imaginations, and we felt unwilling to break the stillness which added to the impressive beauty of the forest scene.

"Did you ever float down the Mississippi?" asked Nathan abruptly. As he spoke he sat down upon the bank, and made sign to us to sit beside him.

"Did you ever float down the Mississippi?"

"No; we came up it from New Orleans hither."

"That is nothing; the stream is not half so dangerous there as above Natchez. We came down, six men, four women, and twice as many children, all the way from the mouths of the Ohio to the Red River; and bad work we had of it, in a crazy old boat, to pass the rapids and avoid the sand-banks, and snakes, and sawyers, and whatever they call them, that are met with. I calculate we weren't sorry when we left the river and took to dry land again. The first thing we did was to make a wigwam, Indian fashion, with branches of trees. This was to shelter the women and children. Two men remained to protect them, and the other four divided into two parties, and set off, one south and t'other west, to look for a good place for a settlement. I and Righteous, one of Asa's brothers, took the southerly track.

It was no pleasuring party that journey, but a right-down hard and dangerous expedition, through cypress swamps, where snapping turtles were plenty as mosquitoes, and at every step the congo and moccasin snakes twisted themselves round our ankles. We persevered, however. We had a few handfuls of corn in our hunting-pouches, and our calabashes well filled with whisky. With that and our rifles we did not want for provender.

At length, on the fourth day, we came to an upland, or rolling prairie as we call it, from the top of which we had a view that made our hearts leap for joy. A lovely strip of land lay before us, bounded at the further end by a forest of evergreen oaks, honey locusts, and catalpas. Towards the north was a good ten mile of prairie; on the right hand a wood of cotton-trees, and on the left the forest in which you now are. We decided at once that we should find no better place than this to fix ourselves; and went back to tell Asa and the others of our discovery, and to show them the way to it. Asa and one of his brothers returned with us, bringing part of our traps. They were as pleased with the place as we were, and went back to fetch the rest. But it was no easy matter to bring our plunder and the women and children through the forests and swamps. We had to cut paths through the thickets, and to make bridges and rafts to cross the creeks and marshes. After ten days' labour, however, and with the help of our axes, we were at our journey's end.

We began directly clearing and cutting down trees, and in three weeks we had built a log-house, and were able to lie down to rest without fear of being disturbed by the wolves or catamounts. We built two more houses, so as to have one for each two families, and then set to work to clear the land. We had soon shaped out a couple of fields, a ten-acre one for maize, and another half the size for tobacco. These we began to dig and hoe; but the ground was hard, and though we all worked like slaves, we saw there was nothing to be made of it without ploughing. A ploughshare we had, and a plough was easily made—but horses were wanting: so Asa and I took fifty dollars, which was all the money we had amongst us, and set out to explore the country forty miles round, and endeavour to meet with somebody who would sell us a couple of horses, and two or three cows. Not a clearing or settlement did we find, however, and at last we returned discouraged, and again began digging. On the very first day after our return, as we were toiling away in the field, a tramping of horses was heard, and four men mounted, and followed by a couple of wolf-hounds, came cantering over the prairie. It struck us that this would be



a famous chance for buying a pair of horses, and Asa went to meet them, and invited them to alight and refresh themselves. At the same time we took our rifles, which were always lying beside us when we worked in the fields, and advanced towards the strangers. But when they saw our guns, they put spurs to their horses and rode off to a greater distance. Asa called out to them not to fear, for our rifles were to use against bears and wolves and Redskins, and not against Christian men. Upon this, down they came again; we brought out a calabash of real Monongahela; and after they had taken a dram, they got off their horses, and came in and ate some venison, which the women set before them. They were Creoles, half Spanish, half French, with a streak of the Injun; and they spoke a sort of gibberish not easy to understand. But Asa, who had served in Lafayette's division in the time of the war, knew French well; and when they had eaten and drunk, he began to make a bargain with them for two of their horses.

It was easy to see they were not the sort of men with whom decent folk could trade. First they would, then they wouldn't: which horses did we want, and what would we give. We offered them thirty-five dollars for their two best horses—and a heavy price it was, for at that time money was scarce in the settlements. They wanted forty, but at last took the thirty-five; and after getting three parts drunk upon taffia, which they asked for to wet the bargain as they said, they mounted two upon each of the remaining horses and rode away.

We now got on famously with our fields, and soon sowed fifteen acres of maize and tobacco, and then began clearing another ten-acre field. We were one day hard at work at this, when one of my boys came running to us, crying out, "Father! Father! Father! The Redskins!" We snatched up our rifles and hastened to the top of the little rising ground on which our houses were built, and thence we saw, not Injuns, but fourteen or fifteen Creoles, galloping towards our clearing, halloing and huzzaing like mad. When they were within fifty yards of us, Asa stepped forward to meet them. As soon as they saw him one of them called out, "There is the thief! There is the man who stole my brown horse!" Asa made no answer to this, but waited till they came nearer, when one of them rode up to him and asked who was the chief in the settlement. "There is no chief here," answered Asa; "we are all equals and free citizens."

"You have stolen a horse from our friend Monsieur Croupier," replied the other. "You must give it up."

"Is that all?" said Asa quietly.

"No; you must show us by what right you hunt on this territory."

"Yes," cried half a dozen others, "we'll have no strangers on our hunting-grounds; the bears and caguars are getting scarcer than ever, and as for buffaloes, they are clean exterminated." And all the time they were talking, they kept leaping and galloping about like madmen.

"The sooner the bears and caguars are killed the better," said Asa. "The land is not for dumb brutes, but for men."

The Creoles, however, persisted that we had no right to hunt where we were, and swore we should go away. Then Asa asked them what right they had to send us away. This seemed to embarrass them, and they muttered and talked together; so that it was easy to see there was no magistrate or person in authority amongst them, but that they were a party of fellows who had come in hopes to frighten us. At last they said they should inform the governor, and the commandant at Natchitoches, and the Lord knows who besides, that we had come and squatted ourselves down here, and built houses, and cleared fields, and all without right or permission; and that then we might look out. So Asa began to lose patience, and told them they might all go to the devil, and that, if they were not off soon, he should be apt to hasten their movements.

"I must have my horse back," screamed the Creole whom they called Croupier.

"You shall," replied Asa, "both of them, if you return the five and thirty dollars."

"It was only fifteen dollars," cried the lying Creole.

Upon this Asa called to us, and we stepped out from amongst the cotton-trees, behind which we had been standing all the while; and when the Creoles saw us, each with his rifle on his arm, they seemed rather confused, and drew back a little.

"Here are my comrades," said Asa, "who will all bear witness, that the horses were sold at the prices of twenty dollars for the one and fifteen for the other. And if any one says the contrary, he says that which is not true."

"Larifari!" roared Croupier. "You shan't stop here to call us liars, and spoil our hunting-ground, and build houses on our land. His excellency the governor shall be told of it, and the commandant at Natchitoches, and you shall be driven away." And the other Creoles, who, while Asa was speaking, appeared to be getting more quiet and reasonable, now became madder than ever, and shrieked, and swore, and galloped backwards and forwards, brandishing their fowling-pieces like wild Injuns, and screaming out that we should leave the country, the game wasn't too plenty for them, and suchlike. At length Asa and the rest of us got angry, and called out to them to take themselves off or they would be sorry for it; and when they saw us bringing our rifles to our shoulders, they put spurs to their horses, and galloped away to a distance of some five hundred yards. There they halted, and set up such a screeching as almost deafened us, fired off some of their old rusty guns, and then rode away. We all laughed at their bragging and cowardice, except Asa, who looked thoughtful.

"I fear some harm will come of this," said he. "Those fellows will go talking about us in their own country; and it gets to the ears of the governor or commanding officers that we have settled down on their territory, they will be sending troops to dislodge us."

Asa's words made us reflect, and we held counsel together as to what was best to be done. I proposed that we should build a blockhouse on the Indian mound to defend ourselves in if we were attacked.

"Yes," said Asa; but we are only six, and they may send hundreds against us."

"Very true," said I; "but if we have a strong blockhouse on the top of the mound, that is as good as sixty, and we could hold out against a hundred Spanish musketeers. And it's my notion, that if we give up such a handsome bit of ground as we have cleared here without firing a shot, we deserve to have our rifles broken before our faces."

Asa, however did not seem altogether satisfied. It was easy to see he was thinking of the women and children. Then said Asa's wife Rachel, "I calculate," said she, "that Nathan, although he is my brother, and I oughtn't to say it, has spoke like the son of his father, who would have let himself be scalped ten times over before he would have given up such an almighty beautiful piece of land. And what's more, Asa, I for one won't go back up the omnipotent dirty Mississippi; and that's a fact."

"But if a hundred Spanish soldiers come," said Asa, "and I reckon they will come?"

"Build the blockhouse, man, to defend yourselves; and when our people up at Salt River and Cumberland hear that the Spaniards are quarrelling with us, I guess they won't keep their hands crossed before them."

So, seeing us all, even the women, so determined, Asa gave in to our way of thinking, and the very same day we began the blockhouse you see before you. The walls were all of young cypress-trees, and we would fain have roofed it with the same wood, but the smallest of the cypresses were five or six feet thick, and it was no easy matter to split them. So we were obliged to use fir, which, when it is dried by a few days' sun, burns like tinder. But we little thought when we did so, what sorrow those cursed fir planks would bring us.

When all was ready, well and solidly nailed and hammered together, we made a chimney, so that the women might cook if necessary, and then laid in a good store of hams and dried bear's flesh, filled the meal and whisky tubs, and the water casks, and brought our plough and what we had most valuable into the blockhouse. We then planted the palisades, securing them strongly in the ground, and to each other, so that it might not be easy to tear them up. We left, as you see, a space of five yards between the stockade and the house, so that we might have room to move about in. It would be necessary for an enemy to take the palisades before he could do any injury to the house itself, and we reckoned that with six good rifles in such hands as ours, it would require a pretty many Spanish musketeers to drive us from our outer defences.

In six weeks all was ready: all our tools and rations, except what we wanted for daily use, carried into the fort, and we stood contemplating the work of our hands with much satisfaction. Asa was the only one who seemed cast down.

"I've a notion," said he, "this blockhouse will be a bloody one before long; and what's more, I guess it will be the blood of one of us that'll redden it. I've a sort of feelin' of it, and of who it'll be."

"Pho! Asa, what notions be these! Keep a light heart, man."

And Asa seemed to cheer up again, and the next day we returned to working in the fields; but as we were not using the horses, one of us went every morning to patrol ten or twelve miles backwards and forwards, just for precaution's sake. At night two of us kept watch, relieving one another, and patrolling about the neighbourhood of our clearing.

One morning we were working in the bush and circling trees, when Righteous rode up at full gallop.

"They're coming!" cried he; "a hundred of them at least."

"Are they far off?" said Asa, quite quietly, and as if he had been talking of a herd of deer.

"They are coming over the prairie. In less than half an hour they will be here."

"How are they marching? With van and rear guard? In what order?"

"No order at all, but all of a heap together."

"Good!" said Asa; "they can know little about bush-fighting or soldiering of any kind. Now then, the women into the blockhouse."

Righteous galloped up to our fort, to be there first in case the enemy should find it out. The women soon followed, carrying what they could with them.

When we were all in the blockhouse, we pulled up the ladder, made the gate fast, and there we were.

We felt strange at first when we found ourselves shut up inside the palisades, and only able to look out through the slits we had left for our rifles. We weren't used to be confined in a place, and it made us right down wolfish. There we remained, however, as still as mice. Scarce a whisper was to be heard. Rachel tore up old shirts and greased them, for wadding for the guns; we changed our flints, and fixed every thing about the rifles properly, while the women sharpened our knives and axes all in silence.

Nearly an hour had passed in this way when we heard a shouting and screaming, and a few musket-shots; and we saw through our loopholes some Spanish soldiers running backwards and forwards on the crest of the slope on which our houses stood. Suddenly a great pillar of smoke arose, then a second, then a third.

"God be good to us!" cried Rachel, "they are burning our houses." We were all trembling and quite pale with rage. Harkye, stranger, when men have been slaving and sweating for four or five months to build houses for their wives and for the poor worms of children, and then a parcel of devils from hell come and burn them down like maize stalks in a stubble field, it is no wonder that their teeth should grind together, and their fists clench of themselves. So it was with us; but we said nothing, for our rage would not let us speak. But presently as we strained our eyes through the loopholes, the Spaniards showed themselves at the opening of the forest yonder, coming towards the blockhouse. We tried to count them, but at first it was impossible, for they came on in a crowd without any order. They thought lightly enough of those they were seeking, or they would have been more prudent. However, when they came within five hundred paces, they formed ranks, and we were able to count them. They were eighty two foot soldiers with muskets and carbines, and three officers on horseback, with drawn swords in their hands. The latter dismounted, and their example was followed by seven other horsemen, amongst whom we recognised three of the rascally Creoles who had brought all this trouble upon us. He they called Croupier was among them. The other four were also Creoles, Acadians or Canadians, a race whom we had already met with on the Upper Mississippi, fine hunters, but wild, drunken, debauched barbarians.

The Acadians were coming on in front, and they set up a whoop when they saw the blockhouse and stockade; but finding that we were prepared to receive them, they retreated upon the main body. We saw them speaking to the officers as if advising them; but the latter shook their heads, and the soldiers continued moving on. They were in uniforms of all colours, blue, white, and brown, but each man dirtier than his neighbour. They marched in good order, nevertheless, the captain and officers coming on in front, and the Acadians keeping on the flanks. The latter, however, edged gradually off towards the cotton-trees, and presently disappeared amongst them.

"Those are the first men to frick off," said Asa, when he saw this manoeuvre of the Creoles. "They have steady hands and sharp eyes; but if we once get rid of them we need not mind the others."

The Spaniards were now within an hundred yards of us.

"Shall I let fly at the thieving incendiaries?" said Righteous.

"God forbid!" replied Asa. "We will defend ourselves like men; but let us wait till we are attacked, and the blood that is shed will lie at the door of the aggressors."

The Spaniards now saw plainly they would have to take the stockade before they could get at us, and the officers seemed consulting together.



"Halt!" cried Asa, suddenly.

"Messieurs les Americains," said the captain, looking up at our loopholes.

"What's your pleasure?" demanded Asa.

Upon this the captain stuck a dirty pocket-handkerchief upon the point of his sword, and laughing with his officers, moved some twenty paces forward, followed by the troops. Thereupon Asa again shouted to him to halt.

"This is not according to the customs of war," said he. "The flag of truce may advance, but if it is accompanied, we fire."

It was evident that the Spaniards never dreamed of our attempting to resist them; for there they stood in line before us, and, if we had fired, every shot must have told. The Acadians, who kept themselves all this time snug behind the cotton-trees, called more than once to the captain to withdraw his men into the wood; but he only shook his head contemptuously. When, however, he heard Asa threaten to fire, he looked puzzled, and as if he thought it just possible we might do as we said. He ordered his men to halt, and called out to us not to fire till he had explained what they came for.

"Then cut it short," cried Asa sternly. "You'd have done better to explain before you burned down our houses, like a pack of Mohawks on the war path."

As he spoke, three bullets whistled from the edge of the forest, and struck the stockades within a few inches of the loophole at which he stood. They were fired by the Creoles, who, although they could not possibly distinguish Asa, had probably seen his rifle barrel or one of his buttons glitter through the opening. As soon as they had fired, they sprang behind their trees again, craning their heads forward to hear if there was a groan or a cry. They'd have done better to have kept quiet; for Righteous and I caught a sight of them, and let fly at the same moment. Two of them fell and rolled from behind the trees, and we saw that they were the Creole called Croupier, and another of our horse-dealing friends.

When the Spanish officer heard the shots, he ran back to his men, and shouted out "Forward! To the assault!" They came on like mad a distance of thirty paces, and then, as if they thought we were wild-geese to be frightened by their noise, they fired a volley against the blockhouse.

"Now then!" cried Asa, "are you loaded Nathan and Righteous? I take the captain—you, Nathan, the lieutenant—Righteous, the third officer—flames, the sergeant. Mark your men, and was'e no powder."

The Spaniards were still some sixty yards off, but we were sure of our mark at a hundred and sixty, and that if they had been squirrels instead of men. We fired: the captain and lieutenant, the third officer, two sergeants, and another man writhed for an instant upon the grass. The next moment they stretched themselves out—dead.

All was now confusion among the musketeers, who ran in every direction. Most of them took to the wood, but about a dozen remained and lifted up their officers to see if there was any spark of life left in them.

"Load again, quick!" said Asa in a low voice. We did so, and six more Spaniards tumbled over. Those who still kept their legs now ran off as if the soles of their shoes had been of red-hot iron.

We set to work to pick out our touchholes and clean our rifles, knowing that we might not have time later, and that a single miss fire might cost us all our lives. We then loaded, and began to calculate what the Spaniards would do next. It is true they had lost their officers; but there were five Acadians with them, and those were the men we had most cause to fear. Meantime the vultures and turkey-buzzards had already begun to assemble, and presently hundreds of them were circling and hovering over the carcasses, which they as yet, however, feared to touch.

Just then Righteous, who had the sharpest eye amongst us all, pointed to the corner of the wood, yonder where it joins the brushwood thicket. I made a sign to Asa, and we all looked and saw there was something creeping and moving through the underwood. Presently we distinguished two Acadians heading a score of Spaniards, and endeavouring, under cover of the bushes, to scud across the open ground to the east side of the forest.

"The Acadians for you, Nathan and Righteous, the Spaniards for us," said Asa. The next moment two Acadians and four Spaniards lay bleeding in the brushwood. But the bullets were scarce out of our rifles when a third Acadian, whom we had not seen, started up. "Now's the time," shouted he "before they have loaded again. Follow me! we will have their blockhouse yet." And he sprang across followed by the Spaniards. We gnashed our teeth with rage at not having seen the Acadian.

There were still three of these fellows alive, who had now taken command of the Spaniards. Although we had shot a score of our enemies, those who remained were more than ten to one of us, and we were even worse off than at first, for then they were all together, and now we had them on each side of us. But we did not let ourselves be discouraged, although we could not help feeling that the odds against us were fearfully great.

We now had to keep a sharp look-out; for if one of us showed himself at a loophole, a dozen bullets rattled about his ears. There were many shot-holes through the palisades, which were covered with white streaks where the splinters had been torn off by the lead. The musketeers had spread themselves all along the edge of the forest, and had learned by experience to keep close to their cover. We now and then got a shot at them and killed four or five, but it was slow work, and the time seemed very long.

Suddenly the Spaniards set up a loud shout. At first we could not make out what was the matter, but presently we heard a hissing and crackling on the roof of the blockhouse. They had wrapped round their cartridges, and one of the shots had set light to the fir boards. Just as we found it out, they gave three more hurras, and we saw the dry planks beginning to flame, and the fire to spread.

"We must put that out and at once," said Asa, "if we don't wish to be roasted alive. Some one must get up the chimney with a bucket of water. I'll go myself."

"Let me go, Asa," said Righteous.

"You stop here. It don't matter who goes. The thing will be done in a minute."

He put a chair on a table and got upon it, and then seizing a bar which was fixed across the chimney to hang hams upon, he drew himself up by his arms, and Rachel handed him a pail of water. All this time the flame was burning brighter, and the Spaniards getting louder in their rejoicings and hurras. Asa stood upon the bar, and raising the pail above his head, poured the water out of the chimney upon the roof.

"More to the left, Asa," said Righteous; "the fire is strongest more to the left."

"Tarnation seize it!" cried Asa, "I can't see. Hand me up another pailful."

We did so; and when he had got it, he put his head out at the top of the chimney to see where the fire was and threw the water over the exact spot. But at the very moment that he did so the report of a dozen muskets was heard.

"Ha!" cried Asa in an altered voice. "I have it." And the hams and bucket came tumbling down the chimney, and Asa after them all covered with blood.

"In God's name, man, are you hurt?" cried Rachel.

"Hush! wife," replied Asa; "keep quiet. I have enough for the rest of my life, which will not be long; but never mind, lads; defend yourselves well, and don't fire two at the same man. Save your lead, for you will want it all. Promise me that."

"Asa!" my beloved Asa!" shrieked Rachel; "if you die, I shall die too."

"Silence! foolish woman: and our child, and the one yet unborn! Hark! I hear the Spaniards! Defend yourselves, and, Nathan, be a father to my children."

I had barely time to press his hand and make him the promise he wished. The Spaniards, who had doubtless guessed our loss, rushed like mad wolves up to the mound, twenty on one side, and upwards of thirty on the other.

"Steady!" cried I. "Righteous, here with me; and you Rachel, show yourself worthy to be Hiram Strong's daughter, and Asa's wife; load this rifle for me while I fire my own."

"O God! O God!" cried Rachel, "the hell hounds have murdered my Asa!"

She clasped her husband's body in her arms, and there was no getting her away. I felt sad enough myself, but there was scanty time for grieving; for a party of Spaniards, headed by one of the Acadians, was close up to the mound on the side which I was defending. I shot the Acadian; but another, the sixth, and last but one, took his place. "Rachel!" cried I, "the rifle, for God's sake, the rifle! a single bullet may save all our lives."

But no Rachel came, and the Acadian and Spaniards, who, from the cessation of our fire, guessed that we were either unloaded, or had expended our ammunition, now sprang forward, and by climbing, and scrambling, and getting on one another's shoulders, managed to scale the side of the mound, almost perpendicular as you see it is. And in a minute the Acadian and half a dozen Spaniards, with axes, were chopping away at the palisades, and severing the wattles which bound them together. To give the devil his due, if there had been only three like that Acadian, it would have been all up with us. He handled his axe like a real backwoodsman; but the Spaniards wanted either the skill or the strength of arm, and they made little impression. There were only Righteous and myself to oppose them; for, on the other side, a dozen more soldiers, with the seventh of those cursed Acadians, were attacking the stockade.

Righteous shot down one of the Spaniards; but just as he had done so the Acadian tore up a palisade by the roots, (how he did it I know not to this hour, there must have been a stump remaining on it,) held it with the wattles and branches hanging round it like a shield before him, guarding off a blow I aimed at him, then hurled it against me with such force that I staggered backwards, and he sprang past me. I thought it was all over with us. It is true that Righteous, with the butt of his rifle, split the skull of the first Spaniard who entered, and drove his hunting knife into the next; but the Acadian alone was man enough to give us abundant occupation, now he had got in our rear. Just then there was a crack of a rifle, the Acadian gave a leap into the air and fell dead, and at the same moment my son Godsend, a boy of ten years old, sprang forward, Asa's rifle in his hand still smoking from muzzle and touchhole. The glorious boy had loaded the piece when he saw that Rachel did not do it, and in the very nick of time had shot the Acadian through the heart. This brought me to myself again, and with axe in one hand and knife in the other, I rushed in among the Spaniards, hacking and hewing right and left. It was a real butchery, which lasted a good quarter of an hour; but then the Spaniards got sick of it, and would have done so sooner had they known that their leader was shot. At last they jumped off the mound and ran away, such of them as could. Righteous and I put the palisade in its place again, securing it as well as we could, and then, telling my boy to keep watch, ran over to the other side, where a desperate fight was going on.

Three of our party, assisted by the women, were defending the stockade against a score of Spaniards, who kept poking their bayonets between the palisades, till all our people were wounded and bleeding. But Rachel had now recovered from her first grief at her husband's death, or rather it had turned to a feeling of revenge, and there she was, like a raging tigress, seizing the bayonets as they were thrust through the stockade, and wrenching them off the muskets, and sometimes pulling the muskets themselves out of the soldiers' hands. But all this struggling had loosened the palisades, and there were one or two openings in them through which the thin-bodied Spaniards, pushed on by their comrades, were able to pass. Just as we came up, two of these copper-coloured Dons had squeezed themselves through, without their muskets, but with their short sabres in their hands. They are active and dangerous fellows those Spaniards in a hand-to-hand tussle. One of them sprang at me, and if it had not been for my hunting-knife, I was done for, for I had no room to swing my axe; but as he came on I hit him a blow with my fist, which knocked him down, and then ran my knife into him, and jumping over his body snatched a musket out of Rachel's hand, and began laying about me with the butt-end of it. I was sorry not to have my rifle, which was handier than those heavy Spanish muskets. The women were now in the way—we hadn't room for so many—so I called out to them to get into the blockhouse and load the rifles. There was still another Acadian alive, and I knew that the fight wouldn't end till he was done for. But while we were fighting, Godsend and the women loaded the rifles, and, brought them out, and firing through the stockade, killed three or four, and, as luck would have it, the Acadian was amongst them. So when the Spaniards, who are just like hounds, and only come on if led and encouraged, saw that their leader had fallen, they sprang off the mound, with a "Carajo! Malditos!" and ran away as if a shell had burst amongst them.

The old squatter paused and drew a deep breath. He had forgotten his usual drawl and deliberation, and had become animated and eager while describing the stirring incidents in which he had borne so active a part. When he had taken breath, he continued.

"I couldn't say how long the fight lasted; it seemed short, we were so busy, and yet long, deadly long. It is no joke to have to defend one's life, and the lives of those one loves best, against fourscore bloodthirsty Spaniards, and that with only half a dozen rifles for arms, and a few palisades for shelter. When it was over we were so dog-tired that we fell down where we were, like over-



driven oxen, and without minding the blood which lay like water on the ground. Seven Spaniards and two Acadians were lying dead within the stockade. We ourselves were all wounded and hacked about, some with knife stabs and sabre-cuts, others with musket-shots; ugly wounds enough, some of them, but none mortal. If the Spaniards had returned to the attack they would have made short work of us; for as soon as we left off fighting and our blood cooled, we became stiff and helpless. But now came the women with rags and bandages, and washed our wounds and bound them up, and we dragged ourselves into the blockhouse, and lay down upon our mattresses of dry leaves. And Godsend loaded the rifles and a dozen Spanish muskets that were lying about to be in readiness for another attack, and the women kept watch while we slept. But the Spaniards had had enough, and we saw no more of them. Only the next morning, when Jonas went down the ladder to reconnoitre, he found thirty dead and several others dying, and a few wounded, who begged hard for a drink of water, for that their comrades had deserted them. We got them up into the blockhouse, and had their wounds dressed, and after a time they were cured and left us."

"And were you never after attacked again?" said I. "I wonder at your courage in remaining here after becoming aware of the dangers you were exposed to."

"We reckoned we had more right than ever to the land after all the blood it had cost us, and then the news of the fight had got carried into the settlements, and up as far as Salt River; and some of our friends and kinsfolk came down to join us, and there were soon enough of us not to care for twice as many Spaniards as we had beaten off before."

While he was speaking the old squatter descended the ladder, and led us out of the forest and over the ridge of a low hill, on the side of which stood a dozen loghouses, which cast their black shadows on the moonlit slope. We found a rough but kind welcome—few words, but plenty of good cheer—and we made acquaintance with the heroes and heroines of the blockhouse siege, and with their sons and daughters, buxom strapping damsels and fine manly lads. I have often enjoyed a softer bed, but never a sounder sleep than that night.

The next day our horses were brought round from the swamp, and we took our departure; but as hardships, however painful to endure, are pleasant to look back upon, so have I often thought with pleasure of our adventures in the prairies, and recurred with the strongest interest to old Nathan's thrilling narrative of the Bloody Blockhouse.

### ET-CETERA.

(THE REMINISCENCES OF MR. FITZBEETLE.)

BY LAMAN BLANCHARD, ESQ.

Every man has his foul fiend—(thus said Mr. Fitzbeetle, beginning the narrative of his experiences)—every man has his foul fiend, of whom it behoves him to beware. The fiend attendant upon us all takes infinite shapes, and bears myriads of names, in languages unspeakable. My own fiend has a familiar Latin cognomen; he is called Et-cetera. I have known him by name ever since I learned the alphabet, but I have only lately discovered him.

Edgar's madness was a fiction, but his foul fiend was a reality like Lear's fool. The sham maniac never knew it, but there was actually a follower at his heels wherever he went, vexing him unaware. It were as easy to separate ourselves from the shadow we cast in the sunshine, or to outrun the echoes of our footsteps, as to part company with our fiend; to distance him, to trip him up, even when we are conscious of his presence; but we seldom detect this private and invisible attendant pursuing us, until life's day begins to darken.

We all remember, when we have once read, that fearful and picturesque lesson of Bulwer's—the story of the man who panted for solitude, utter solitude, who hated the faces of his brethren, and slew the grinning, chattering fellow, cast with him on the desert island, because he would not keep on his own side of the stream, and consent to be alone. Well, this lover of loneliness, when he had thus got rid of this grinning, chattering impersonation of Society, and sought repose in the bosom of sweet Solitude, found he could never be alone more—never for an instant could he be alone now,—for the grinning, chattering thing walked with him and ran with him, slept beside him at night, and sat opposite to him at dinner. And when on his return to Europe the physician, thinking to cure the suffering sinner, led him into an apartment, the floor of which was covered with a layer of wet sand, and in the middle of the room said,

"You and I are alone here, he is not with us,"—

—the lover of solitude answered by pointing to the sand, on which the footprints of three persons, from the door to the centre where they stood, were distinctly visible, and as the two living men walked farther, wherever they went the feet of a third moving creature left their prints upon the floor also.

Why we can no more run away from the fiend we have once allowed to tread upon our heels than the misanthrope could from his victim. We permit; nay encourage the growth of a habit to which, without knowing it, we become a slave, and from which, while liberty is worth having, there is no escape. Each then has his foul fiend in this way, give him what name we will. My own, as I have said, is named Et-cetera. To Et-cetera I have been a victim all my days, —in Et-cetera is included all my causes of complaint—with Et-cetera every misfortune of my life has been hurried on—and yet to the influence, the potency of Et-cetera, I have always been blind.

The truth is, that from the earliest dawn of my day, I was known as a philosopher of a very literal turn of mind. I could just crawl forward and spy whatever lay conspicuously before me in the straight path. I had a tolerable eye for causes, but not for effects—I never could see these until they had happened—not one out of twenty. Any immediate consequence I might be sensible of, but not the remote ones and the contingencies. There was room in my mind for only one idea at a time.

Thus I was perfectly well aware that a shower of rain would give me a soaking, if it lasted long enough, but there my consciousness stopped short—it rarely extended its regard to the next generation of consequences, taking in the influenza and rheumatism.

So too I was sensible enough that eating very heartily was likely to be destructive to appetite—experience taught me this fact, and I felt it forcibly from boyhood—but I had a very indefinite notion of the next stage of results, indigestion, nightmare, apoplexy, Et-cetera.

Getting wet through, and laying down my knife and fork, in the cases in question, constituted the sum-total of what would be in my mind as inevitable and necessary consequences. All other results, however natural and certain, were not of this primary class, but fell into a category of which I rarely took the slightest notice—and then only by a great effort of the mind, after much pondering upon those things.

If not in my cradle, certainly in my early school-days, my experience of the influences of this fiend Et-cetera, together with my insensibility, began.

But I am not going to dive so deeply into the past, as that retrograde movement would carry me. Enough, that long before I quitted the university, Et-cetera was at my heels hourly tripping me up. He attacked me terrifically, the very first breakfast I ever gave. I thought of a breakfast then, as of eggs, coffee, cream, rashers, and a pigeon-pie or so—and thus I agreed to give some breakfasts—in a friendly way, and in the spirit of a wise young student. Bless my five simple wits, how innocent I was of words as well as forms and customs! How little did I know what breakfast was, until they told me in the most good-natured style of warning imaginable, that I must order champagne, Et-cetera.

And ordered they were; and in due order their successors came; and then departed only to be replaced by indescribables equal to them; and, in short, in the course of two years I had won quite a reputation, and grew famous among all men of taste for my breakfasts—these breakfasts being thus relished and reputed, not at all on account of those excellent commonplaces the coffee and eggs, not by any means on account of such unmitigated vulgarities as rashers or pigeon-pies; nay, not for the sparkling refinement and vivacity of the champagne—but chiefly, and above all things, for the Et-cetera, the nameless luxuries, the inexpressible ingenuity and abundance of the Et-cetera.

And very right it was that some effect should be produced by it, as it turned out to be far the heaviest item in my college account of debts, some thousands of pounds long; for I remember my father, when called upon to pay, declaring that the charges for the more regular and necessary articles were not on a particularly exorbitant scale, but that the demand for Et-ceteras was ruinous.

But for all that I had no eye to Et-cetera when I became my own master. One of the first steps I took on gaining my freedom was to part with it; and at the matrimonial altar, I supposed (such was the narrow limit of my understanding) that I was taking unto myself one wife as per licence. My mistake soon broke upon me like a thunderclap, and I found that I had not taken Et-cetera into account. I had a wife, it is true; but I had married also my wife's mother, three sisters, two maiden aunts, and an excellent young man, distantly related to the family, who was every way worthy of my good offices, and very fond of singing to the girls. Yes, it was quite clear that I had not made due allowance for Et-cetera.

Whatever was definitely expressed, I could readily comprehend; but whatever was not expressed, but implied, was beyond my range of thought. Thus I had compassed the idea of a wife with astonishing ease; but a wife's relations were one remove beyond, and so they were absolutely out of sight. Not after marriage, though; never for one day. A day! not "an hour of virtuous liberty" could I thenceforward command. I was in a minority of one upon every motion for freedom.

My brain was in a whirl moreover, or upon the rack rather, stretching itself to take in the conception of their direct relationship to me. Sisters I understood; but sisters-in-law, not in law related at all, were literally teasers to me. A mother was a noun substantive indisputably intelligible; but a mother-in-law, who had never borne me on the one hand, and whom I couldn't bear on the other, was a riddle—and a very bad one she was of the sort.

I felt for the unhappy husband whom Mr. Vining represents in the pleasant farce, wherein *Old Fozzie* is so divine and *Mrs. Quickfidget* so diabolical. I went beyond even the persecuted gentleman who complained of his "Wife's Mother" to the readers of this paper long before the date of the farce, and I envied, of all mankind, Adam only—only Adam—for his wife had neither mother nor sisters.

But envy and sympathy were alike useless. I had contracted an alliance, but luckily not my establishment; so room was made for all, including the deserving relation who, upon trial, was not half so distant as he was represented. I had married a wife whose maiden name was Legion, that was all. I was wedded, not merely to one spinster, but to a genteel private family, matrons included. When, in the ardour of my affection, I had made my charmer my own, addressing her as my adorable, and vowing that "*she only* could be mine,"—I had entirely forgotten Et-cetera. There were the family besides her. It couldn't be helped.

I thought, however, that if the time were to come over again, and the extent of the lady's relationships could be known, a prudent lover might, without running much risk of detection in those moments of rapture, change the impassioned question,

"Will you be mine alone?"

—into a guarded application to her, to drop all her troops of troublesome relatives, at once and for ever—

"Will you alone be mine?"

The word "family" introduced above, forcibly reminds me that in the eventful affair of marriage, I was in another sense guilty of a strange oversight, an obliviousness of latent consequences. It had merely occurred to my simple and uncalculating mind, that to get married was to get a wife. "A wife, Et-cetera," involved a train of ideas too complex, too divisible at least to be entertained for an instant. But when the fourteenth little Fitzbeetle made his appearance in the family circle, I discovered by my finances that in arranging marriage-matters, I had not provided for Et-cetera.

The same mistake I committed in my estimate of the consequences of securing a seat as representative of the worthy and independent electors of Pocketborough. The simple impression on my mind was—having but a solitary idea, I always made it a pleasing one—that a sum paid and a seat secured, ended the matter. But woe to all short calculators who delude themselves with such false estimates. The condition complied with, and the seat contested, a tremendous train of Et-cetera broke in upon my repose. The foul fiend was not to be pacified. The large sum had gained over the large influences; but the voters, the mere Et-cetera in the calculations of my advisers, remained to be won; and when all seemed to be over, the business of paying had but just commenced.

The seat secured, or, to speak more correctly, the seat taken, a committee of the House now became my Et-cetera—the thing implied, but not expressed, in my negotiation. Sent back to Pocketborough to disburse more dexterously, though hardly more economically, the seat was again won—and now repose was in view. But another train of Et-cetera was yet to be fired; in applications without number for favours, rewards, and honours to be showered upon the worthy and independent electors of Pocketborough.

It was perfectly astounding even to me, whose wife had by no means come of an unprolific stock, how so few voters could contrive to reckon up so many near and dear relations. Every one of them might have furnished an astonishing paragraph of news to the *Pocketborough Patriot*, each case exhibiting a statistical miracle, in a numerical staircase of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. If any thing could have added to the wonder, it would have been



found in the surprising uniformity of wants and desires that characterized the independent constituency in question.

What might have added yet to the singularity was, that while every son, grandson, et-cetera, ardently longed for a situation in the Customs or Excise, the Home Service or the Colonies, so every one in succession happened to be, of all existing specimens of precocity, the best fitted for the place specified.

One qualification only could be superadded to this—and it was, that all were equally fitted, by natural and acquired powers, for any place that might become vacant. The fiend Et-cetera never came in a more persecuting shape; and the pursuit of places under difficulties, which commenced on the day of my return, chanced, by a strange coincidence, to end only on the day of the next dissolution.

But hitherto I have detailed my adverse fortunes, consequent upon my inattention to the Et-cetera, in important affairs alone, in the leading events of my life. The same fate attended me, and for the same reason, in all minor concerns. For example:

When invited, in a most marked and flattering manner, to meet Lord Blank and Mr. Dash, the greatest philosopher and the greatest poet of their time, what pleasant self-gratulations, what dignifying forebodings were mine! My soul yearned for the coming night! Very true—I did not thoroughly enter into the justice of their claims to greatness, but I knew their claims were recognised. I did not profess to measure accurately their pretensions; it was enough that their pretensions were unquestioned. I divided my one idea between them, and determined that philosophy and poetry were equal—perhaps the same thing. At all events, I should be introduced, I should converse, I should hear—and then I could say that this had happened. Besides, their sayings must be very unlike other men's—the one would speak diamonds, the other pearls.

But when the hour of meeting came there were Lord Blank and Mr. Dash to be sure—and there too was I. Alas! when invited to meet them, I had not allowed for the presence of Et-cetera. Between the great men and me, a hundred and fifty admiring obstacles in black coats or beautiful draperies interposed. There were two Somebodies and myriads of Nobodies to obscure them. I went there to meet Blank and Dash, and I met Et-cetera. There were the Miggimses and the Fribskins by scores, and one eternal squeeze and jabber they kept up; but as for the philosopher and the poet in such company, I would as soon have met the two sheriffs of London in an omnibus.

I saw the illustrious pair certainly, as one may have seen Rubini and Lablache on the stage, without the chance of a personal conference, or even an introduction,—and with this material difference—that there was not the possibility of hearing the voice of either. Imagine my disappointment. A simple-minded man, I had reckoned upon a three-handed reel of discussion, Lord Blank, Mr. Dash, and myself, never dreaming of the intrusion of Et-cetera. But it is a sample of my experience.

Doubtless the reader has sometimes indulged in similar anticipations, and been similarly deceived. The Et-cetera at the end of a list of agreeable names is frequently plain English for a bore.

Most of my friendships have been formed upon this narrow and near-sighted principle of not taking into view the consequences entailed in an Et-cetera. My friend is not a wise man, but I love him nevertheless; forgetting the truth conveyed in Gay's couplet—

Who knows a fool must know his brother;  
One fop will recommend another.

My regard for a fool has attracted round me half the fools in town. My house has become a fool's paradise. My friend possesses an endless file of friends; and in the exuberance of his sympathetic bounty he makes them all mine. There is not a single acquaintance of his in all London, but he insists on sharing him with me. Every queer creature I catch in his company I am fain to regard instantaneously as my proximate Pylades. It might be almost supposed that he obtains introductions to foolish people by the dozen, only with the benevolent design of introducing me as his very particular friend. I verily believe that he would not hesitate, if he had the power, to palm off all the inhabitants of the Friendly Islands upon me. My private Temple of Friendship is thus thrown open to the public, admittance gratis from January to December.

Charles Lamb has consigned to lasting contempt, the intrusive principle involved in "Love me, love my dog;" with that, however, I could be content, but my friend insists upon my loving every puppy that crosses his path. Who could possibly have suspected when I was first shaking hands with a solitary Jones, that I was introducing myself to such an Et-cetera! Jones, it is true, is quite a comet among the heavenly bodies of friendship, but unfortunately I did not calculate in time the astonishing length of his tail.

If not on this rock, I have often contrived to wreck my comfort in friendship upon another. For want of that wise forethought, which always stops to look at Et-cetera wherever he appears, I have read some friendly bond drawn up for signature, to the close—excepting the Et-cetera!—and then freely put my hand to it. Why, I had left unread all the principal clauses, in overlooking the &c., that which I had innocently taken for an emblematic ornament, or a true-lover's knot to end with, by way of flourish. I had signed and sealed, as legibly written, to confidence, sympathy, attachment, honour, and other items; but Et-cetera at the end stood in place of words unwritten—as cash advances, bill at short date, surety, responsibility, and similar significant phrases; and not one of these sly snakes had I discerned under the grass of Et-cetera!

To take the latest example of the consequences of this oversight. It happened when my friend came to demand a clear moiety of my worldly property to support and carry into assured success his magnificent speculation. He had it, for on him personally I had every reliance; but according to habit I noticed only his own name as responsible in the concern, and totally omitted to fix one moment's attention upon the "and Co." that followed it. "And Co." made all the difference. Alas! my friend had an Et-cetera, and it played the foul fiend with my responsibility. Et-cetera is sometimes Latin for "And Co."

Even in forming an ordinary acquaintance, I was often the dupe of the fiend. I met a cheerful companion, a goodnatured gossip, and we of course struck up an intimacy. Every thing went on pleasantly and promisingly—the most agreeable intercourse was sure to be the result—all jocund hospitalities would be interchanged—when it turned out that we were reckoning without reference to the familiar but invisible demon Et-cetera.

My new acquaintance was charming, but his wife was—Et-cetera. My evil genius was his better half. Here was the patent lock upon hospitality, the extinguisher upon lighthearted ease, the thumbscrew upon the hand of intimacy; so our lively salutations would dwindle into mere good-mornings, our good-mornings into nods across the street, till they dropped by degrees into a distance yet more respectful. This is nearly the history of my social life. Every one of its enjoyments has been clogged with a fatal Et-cetera.

Talk of the postscript's superiority to the letter in real interest and importance! What is that to the superiority of Et-cetera in meanings of mighty import, over any terms of speech which may introduce it! When Mrs. Fitz-

beetle, speaking in the united voices of the genteel family who have multitudinously married me, declares that I must positively make immediate arrangements for their taking a trip to Paris, Et-cetera, I distinctly hear in the phrase now, the whole tour of France and Italy. When she announces her intention of asking a few people in the evening—just the Johnsons, Et-cetera—I justly calculate upon the presence of every live creature known to us by the sound of the voice. When the application is for a pair of earrings, Et-cetera, I well know that the little article asked for bears the same proportion to the desirables unmentioned that the protruding head of the tortoise bears to its concealed body in the shell.

Et-cetera is no longer to my ears a scrap of a dead language; it has undergone the process of translation in the liveliest manner. If my partial exposition (for this dissertation might be greatly extended) of its import and tendency, should chance to induce somebody to use it sparingly and conscientiously, to investigate it when used by others, to consider that it may mean a little too much, and to inquire into the probable significations it comprises, that somebody may have reason to rejoice that I have introduced him here to the foul fiend—Et-cetera!

## THE BAKER'S DAUGHTER.

AN ANECDOTE.

A few years ago, I went to reside in the town of C—, in the county of Essex, and having one day occasion to seek shelter from a shower, chance conducted me to the shop of a baker, where I was courteously received, and entertained with various odds and ends of gossip respecting the neighbourhood. There was, however, one subject uppermost in the mind of the baker, and that was an incident connected with his family, which he seemed desirous of expatiating upon; and giving him due encouragement, he related the following particulars:—

He had five daughters, all grown up, and whom he had educated to the best of his limited means and opportunities. The eldest was married and settled in London, and the youngest followed the profession of a mantua-maker in her native town. Sarah, the second daughter, and heroine of the family, went to pay a visit to her married sister in the metropolis, and during her stay, she occasionally employed a leisure hour in examining the attractive objects displayed in the shop windows of some of the principal streets. It happened, on one of these occasions, that she unconsciously arrested the notice of a gentleman who was passing at the moment, and who, being struck by her appearance, and yielding to the impulse of first impressions, resolved to watch her movements. She continued her ramble, and while she walked on, the gentleman never lost sight of her for a moment. After following her for a considerable time, he saw her pass down a narrow street, and enter the shop of a green-grocer. Here he waited patiently in the expectation that she would again make her appearance; but being disappointed in this, he entered, and found it was the place of her residence. By a little address, he obtained an interview with her, when a conversation ensued, which terminated favourably. He called on the morrow, renewed the acquaintance, and, on the third day, induced her to walk out with him. Whilst in company, he candidly told her that his mind had been remarkably impressed on first seeing her, and that it was his wish and design to make her his wife, if she would permit him that happiness. He next stated that he was a colonel in the Russian service; that he was born in England, and had come over to see his native country and friends; that he was about to return to Poland to join his regiment. If, however, she gave her consent, there would be but one obstruction to their union, which was, that the martial law of Russia required that every officer, previous to marrying, should first obtain the permission of the emperor. This he promised to procure, provided that, upon considering his proposition, her decision should be favourable to his hopes. In that case, it would be necessary for her to come over to him to Poland, to complete their nuptials.

As may naturally be supposed, the poor girl was astonished and overpowered at this unexpected announcement. She knew not what to think of it; and after considering it for some time, as the difficulties of the case and the perplexities of her mind increased she wrote to her father, soliciting his counsel and guidance. This step coming to the knowledge of the colonel, he accompanied it with a most gentlemanly and courteous letter, expressive of his honour and affection.

The father was puzzled. He looked with suspicion on the colonel's designs; felt anxious for his daughter's safety; and was averse to the measure. The poor man at length consulted a friend, who viewed the case more favourably, and approved of the match. Still, the father hesitated, and left it to his daughter to act as she pleased. Meantime the colonel departed for Poland, but without obtaining the girl's positive consent.

Some months after, he wrote once more to the father, stating to the old man his anxiety for his daughter's arrival. "For did you but know, sir," said he, "my feelings, I am sure you would send her upon the wings of the wind." The girl consented. A third letter came, informing her that a certain vessel then lying in the London docks was about to proceed to Dantzic, and that the colonel, had made every arrangement with the captain for her voyage, during which the most minute and delicate attention would be paid to her comfort; and that, on her arrival in port she was to proceed forthwith to the house of his friend, the English consul, where she would be received as one of the family, and have to remain till he could despatch a confidential person to conduct her to his own residence. He further directed her to apply to another friend of his in London, who, he said, would attend her to inspect the vessel. She did so; and the gentleman came in the morning in his carriage, and conducted her to the docks. Here the poor girl was anxious to know of the captain what was to become of her, should things not turn out as she expected. "You shall, in that event, remain under my protection," said the captain, "and I will bring you safe back to your friends."

Matters being thus settled, during the few remaining days of the ship continuing in port, the gentleman who had escorted her came and took her out once or twice, for an airing, with his lady, and encouraged her to cheer up for the voyage. But here another difficulty sprang up, the want of suitable clothes; which was obviated by a friend advancing a few pounds to complete her wardrobe. The colonel, however, had previously offered to take her just as she was. At length she sailed, and learned for the first time, during her passage that owing to some alterations in the mode of lading the vessel a part of the cargo would be discharged at Memel, a port about two hundred miles short of their ultimate destination, and where they would remain some weeks. This was a sad trial. But it appears that the colonel, ever watchful of the interests of his expected bride, had gained intelligence of this change; and on the ship arriving before the town, a man was seen to leave the shore in a boat; and when alongside, he held up a letter, inquiring of the captain if a lady answering to the address upon it was on board. On being informed that there was, he handed it up the side of the vessel, saying that his instructions were to receive the



lady, and conduct her to the house of the English consul; which he did. The latter was a Frenchman, and though the kindest attentions were paid to her by the family, yet owing to the parties not well understanding each other's language, little information could be gained by her as to her future destiny. She remained at Memel some time, till a messenger arrived from the colonel to attend her on her journey. They set out in an open carriage, and travelled seven days and five nights into the interior of the country, till they arrived at Bialystok, a small town on the right banks of the Niemen, once belonging to Poland but now attached to the Russian crown, and containing a population of about five thousand inhabitants, together with a royal castle and gardens—one of the summer residences of the emperor, to whose staff the colonel was attached. Here she was agreeably and unexpectedly introduced into the family of a resident English physician, where her lover met her. Two days elapsed in making the necessary bridal preparations; and on the morning of the third, the colonel, accompanied by a friend, proceeded to church, followed by the carriage of one of the princesses, in which was the princess, the intended bride, and two ladies; his excellency, the governor, and other friends, completing the procession. The ceremony was performed in French.

Previous to the girl's departure from England, she had promised her father that she would send him a duly attested copy of the marriage indenture. This she did; but the person to whose care it was intrusted, after keeping it several months, returned it to her, having been disappointed in his expected voyage. During this interval of suspense and anxiety, the feelings of the poor man were very distressing. He thought of his daughter with fearful apprehensions; his mind, to use his own phrase, "was in a terrible turmoil." At length the wished-for document arrived, and dispelled his fears; since which several letters have been received from the fair adventurer to her father, expressive of her having realized her fondest hopes, and the happiness she enjoys in the society of her husband, whom she describes as the most amiable and the best of men. His company, she says, is universally courted, and he is esteemed and beloved by all. Their house is situated in the principal street; its furniture is neat and elegant, but not sumptuous; and they have three servants. Their mode of spending the day is this: after breakfast she retires to dress, and then sits down to her French lessons (it being the language of the place, and one of which she is ignorant); at two they dine; in the afternoon she works, while he reads to her till five; they then walk together into the governor's garden (abounding with the finest orange-trees in Europe), or into the large pine forests that surround the town. These are stocked with wild deer, various kinds of game, squirrels, and birds of beautiful plumage. After tea, the remainder of the evening is devoted to reading and conversation. Such is the plan of the day, occasionally enlivened by paying and receiving visits. To use her own words, "every hour adds to my happiness, which is that of calm and heavenly nature, it resembles a pleasing dream; and, indeed, often do I ask myself can this be true? or will not the delightful illusion vanish?" In a letter from the colonel to his father-in-law, he says, "that though his rank and condition in life entitled him to have formed an alliance with families of higher pretensions, yet having conceived, in the first instance, favourable impressions of his daughter, he had been guided by them, in the choice he had made; and that he was well satisfied with the step, for that his companion proved to him a most excellent and affectionate wife." After residing about two years at Bialystok, the colonel and his lady settled in St. Petersburg.

Here ended the baker's account of his daughter's fortunes, and as the old man shortly afterwards died, I am unable to present any further particulars of this romantic story.

[Our readers will understand that this short paper is only presented as a curious anecdote of real life, and not as an exemplar of conduct. Proceedings such as those of the Russian colonel are certainly, in the present state of society extremely imprudent; and those of the baker's daughter were nearly as much so. It was only the good fortune, and not the conduct of both, which made their eccentric union turn out well.]

### CARDILLAC THE JEWELLER.

A TALE FROM THE GERMAN OF HOFFMAN.—[Continued.]  
BY MRS. E. F. ELLET.

When Mlle de Scuderi recovered her senses, the prisoner was gone. She earnestly entreated to be immediately helped into the carriage, and driven home. At the first glance she had recognised in Oliver Brusson the young man who had opened the door of her carriage on the Pont Neuf, and thrown the note into her lap; the same who had brought her the casket of jewels. La Regnie's dreadful suspicion, then, was well founded! The prisoner indeed belonged to that band of robbers, and had really murdered his master! And Madelon! The good lady's feelings were embittered, crushed; she began to doubt if there was truth in the world. She could not prevent the most horrible suspicions from entering her mind. Many of the circumstances that before seemed proof of the girl's entire innocence, now appeared but to prove her consummate art, her deep guilt. What meant her tears and her anguish, lest her lover should suffer a deserved death? With these bewildering thoughts busy at her heart, Scuderi alighted from the carriage, and entered her own house. Madelon was in her room; she rushed to meet her protectress, and sank at her feet; she raised towards her eyes that seemed to shine with angelic purity; she clasped her hands across her breast with a gesture of supplication. Scuderi averted her face, and said in a harsh tone:

"Go! the murderer awaits the punishment of his crimes. Heaven grant that not on you also lies the guilt of blood!"

Madelon only exclaimed, in a voice of heart-rending anguish, "Then all is lost!" and fell on the ground in a swoon.

Scuderi ordered her maid to take care of the unhappy girl, and left the apartment. Not long after, Pierre made his appearance, with a face of no little consternation, and informed his mistress that Desgrais waited to see her. "Let him come in," answered the lady, not noticing the fears of her servant; and the official entered.

"The President La Regnie," said he, "has sent me to your ladyship with a request, which he is emboldened to hope you will grant, by his knowledge of your firmness and regard for justice, and by the conviction that through you alone is likely to be elicited information of much consequence to the public. He is also encouraged to apply to you by the consideration that you have already taken much interest in the process now before the *Chambre Ardente*. A change has taken place in the prisoner since he has seen your ladyship. He still refuses to confess, declaring himself innocent of Cardillac's death, but expresses himself willing to submit to his doom, which he has deserved. Your ladyship will observe that the last admission obviously points to other crimes. But he will confess nothing; not even under the fear of torture. He petitions only for an interview with you; to you alone he will disclose all. Will your ladyship condescend to hear him?"

"How!" cried the lady, "and become the minister of your bloody tribunal!"

Receive the confidence of the unhappy man for the purpose of bringing him to the scaffold? Never, Desgrais! Brusson may be a murderer, but I will hear none of his guilty secrets. I am no father confessor."

"Perhaps, lady," said Desgrais, "your mind may change when you have heard the prisoner. Did not you yourself entreat the President to be human? He is so, when he yields to the prisoner's earnest prayer, and resorts to the last means that may save him from the torture."

Scuderi shuddered involuntarily.

"You will not be asked," pursued Desgrais, "to revisit the prison, the sight of which before affected you. To-night, if you consent, the prisoner shall be brought to your house. He shall speak with you alone; but a sufficient guard shall be placed without the room, to prevent his escape and secure you from all danger. Indeed, you have nothing to fear from him; he speaks of you with profound respect; and insists that could he have seen you earlier, he had not been brought into this strait. Moreover, you will not be required to reveal more of his confession than you choose. Can more be said to induce you to comply?"

The lady hesitated a moment, then answered with dignity:

"You may bring the prisoner; I will speak with him. God will give me firmness and courage."

Late that night a knocking was heard at the house door. Pierre opened to the gens-d'armes, who conducted Brusson. An icy thrill ran through Mlle de Scuderi's frame, as she heard them traversing the hall, and mounting the stairs. Presently the door of her dressing-room opened, and the prisoner entered, free from his fetters, and well dressed, followed by Desgrais. The official introduced him, and then respectfully withdrew.

Brusson approached, and sank on his knees at the lady's feet, covering his face with his hands. When he removed them, his face was seen bathed in tears.

Scuderi was deeply moved; and in spite of herself a doubt that he could be guilty arose in her mind. What earnestness and truth were in his expressive features! And they awakened some vague recollection of the past, though what, she could not say, which became more distinct as she gazed upon him. She forgot that a murderer was before her, and said in a tone of gentleness and sympathy:

"What have you to say to me, Master Brusson?"

The young man still knelt before her.

"Oh, most honoured lady," he asked, "have you, then, no remembrance of me?"

Scuderi looked at him again, and replied, that his features did indeed remind her of some friend; and that recollection had for the moment overcome her horror of his crime. At this he rose, and stepped back a pace or two, before he said, in a melancholy tone:

"Have you, then, forgotten Anne Guiot? and her son Olivier, the boy you have so often caressed, and once loved? It is he who stands before you."

The lady uttered an exclamation of surprise and grief, and sank back upon the cushions of her chair. She had cause for emotion. Anne Guiot, the daughter of an impoverished citizen, had been from her childhood the protégée of Mlle de Scuderi, and her cherished though humble friend. She had married an honest and industrious young man, Claude Brusson, a watchmaker. Their little son had been the favourite of her protectress, and as fond of her as of his mother. Some years after their marriage, Claude being less fortunate in his business than he expected, found it difficult to maintain his family, and removed to his native city of Geneva, in spite of Scuderi's advice that they should remain in Paris, and her promises of patronage. Anne wrote several times to her adopted mother; but gradually her letters became less frequent, and at length ceased entirely. Mlle de Scuderi was forced to believe that the cares of an increasing family, and new scenes, had effaced the recollection of her early friend. Twenty years had passed since Brusson, with his wife and child, had left Paris.

A silence of some minutes ensued, during which both were much agitated; the prisoner so violently, that Mlle de Scuderi pointed to a seat, near which he was standing, and on which at her bidding he sank.

With no little effort he collected himself, and again addressed the lady. "It is as a stern duty, madame, that I have prepared myself for this interview, which I have craved as a last favor of my judges. May I entreat your compassionate indulgence, while I disclose what will certainly surprise you, perhaps fill you with abhorrence towards me! Would that my poor father had never left Paris! So long as I can remember, our condition at Geneva was one of poverty and privation; from my earliest childhood I was accustomed to want, and to hear day by day the complaints of my parents of their hard lot. My mother spoke much of you, her early benefactress; but a false pride probably prevented her and my father from returning to solicit your kindness in their behalf. As soon as I was able to work, I was apprenticed to a goldsmith; soon after, my father died, and in a few months my mother followed him to the grave."

"Poor Anne! poor Anne!" cried Scuderi, sobbing.

"Heaven be praised, rather," resumed the prisoner, "that she was taken from evil to come, and lived not to see her beloved son die a felon's death!" Here the unfortunate young man yielded to his feelings and burst into bitter and passionate tears. There was a movement without, as if the guard apprehended an attempt to escape; Olivier marked it, and proceeded:—"I was harshly treated by my master the goldsmith, notwithstanding that I wrought early and late; and my situation soon became intolerable. It happened one day that a stranger came into our shop to make some purchases. He took notice of a necklace on which I was working; clapped me on the shoulder and said, 'my young friend, that is capital workmanship, I know not, indeed, who could do better, unless it were René Cardillac, who is the first jeweller in the world. You should go to him; he would be glad, no doubt, to employ you; and you could improve yourself with him.' These words sank deep into my soul. I was restless thenceforward in Geneva; and ere long I got released from my master's service. I came to Paris. René Cardillac received me very coldly; but I insisted on his allowing me to show him some of my work. I finished a small ring, and brought it to him. He looked at me, as if his eyes would read me through and through, then said, 'You are a skilful workman; you can come and help me in my shop. I will pay you well, and you shall be pleased with my service.' Cardillac kept his word. I remained with him; but it was many months before I saw his daughter, who was passing some time in the country with an old female relative. At length she returned. Oh! how lovely she was! No man ever loved as I did!"

Olivier here paused a few moments, before he could proceed calmly:

"Madelon was very kind to me. She often came into the shop, and as I could not conceal my passion from her, she did not hesitate to acknowledge that she returned it. Her father watched us closely, but we eluded his suspicions. I resolved to apply myself with diligence to my business, and when I was able to command a competence, to sue for Madelon's hand. One morning while I



was at work, Cardillac came in, his face distorted and pale with anger, 'I need your services no longer,' said he, furiously; 'out of this house, and let me never behold you more! I need not tell you why you are dismissed; the sweet fruit you would pluck hangs too high for your reach!' I would have spoken, but he seized and dragged me to the door, which he slammed in my face when I was outside. I left the house, and obtained lodgings with an acquaintance in the suburb St. Martin. But I had no rest; my head was filled with plans for obtaining a sight of Madelon. By night I wandered about the house in which she lived, in hopes of seeing even her shadow passing the window. In the street Nicaise, close to Cardillac's house, is a high wall with several projections of rough stone. Against one of these I leaned one night, looking up at the window of my beloved, which was visible, but there was no light there. Suddenly I saw a light in the window below, which I knew was Cardillac's apartment. I was surprised that he should be awake at this hour, for it was past midnight, and vexed also; for it convinced me that any attempt on my part to enter the house, which was my object, would be discovered by him. While I was wondering if anything unusual had happened, the light was extinguished; and soon after I felt the part of the wall against which I leaned, giving away. I sprang back and hid myself in the deep shadow behind the projection. I could see distinctly that a secret door turned in the wall, and a dark muffled figure came softly out, and walked down the street. Impelled irresistibly, I followed a few paces behind him. Close to an image of the Virgin the figure turned round, and the light of a lamp fell on its face. It was Cardillac! A shuddering seized me; but as if borne on by magic, I still followed him; at length he disappeared in the deep shadow on the side of the street, but a light clearing of his throat betrayed that his lurking-place was close at hand. A few moments elapsed; when a man wearing a plumed cap and spurs, came along, humming an air. Cardillac sprang on him, like a tiger on his prey; the man fell on the pavement; I sprang forward, crying, 'Master Cardillac—what have you done?' He started up, rushed past me, and disappeared. Bewildered with horror and amazement, I knelt beside the victim and strove to bring him to life, but he was quite dead. Before I knew it, I was surrounded by the police, and seized as the murderer."

"I related how I had come to the wounded man just as the assassin left him. The officers looked in my face, and one of them exclaimed, 'I know him well; it is Olivier Brusson, the goldsmith; he works for the excellent Master René Cardillac, and is an honest fellow.' Again they questioned me, and I told exactly what I had seen, only not mentioning the assassin's name. They showed me the wound, directly through the heart of the murdered man; and after some further examination I was discharged."

"All next day I seemed to be in a frightful dream. The awful occurrence I had witnessed was continually before my eyes. As I sat in my chamber the door opened, and Cardillac entered. 'What do you want, for Heaven's sake?' I cried. He came towards me with a smile that sent a shudder through my frame, drew a chair, and seated himself close by me. 'Olivier,' said he, 'I was over hasty in my conduct to you yesterday; I drove you from my house, but I find I cannot do without you. Even now I have on hand a piece of work, which I cannot complete without your help. Will you enter my service once more? You are silent. I know I have done you wrong. I did not approve your love for Madelon; but, on mature consideration, I find that so far as industry, skillfulness, and faithfulness are concerned, I could not have a better son-in-law than yourself. Come with me; Madelon awaits you.'

"Cardillac's words went to my heart, but I had no power to speak. He observed my emotion—'You hesitate,' said he; 'you have perhaps other views; you mean to go to Desgrais, to La Regnie, or to Argenson. Beware, young man! lest the power you invoke to the destruction of others make you also its victim!' 'Let those,' I cried, 'who are conscious of crime, fear the names you have mentioned; I have nothing to do with them.' 'Remember,' said Cardillac, 'that it will require other evidence than yours to criminate a man like me, noted for good report; and that any effort to injure me will probably result in your own ruin. As concerns Madelon, it is to her, not to my fears, you are indebted for my present visit. She loves you passionately. Since your departure, she has wearied me with entreaties to recall you, declaring that without you she could not live. Indeed, she is grown so pale and wan, that I have feared for her life. Last evening I promised her I would bring you home to-day.'

"May I be forgiven, lady, if I yielded to my feelings, and what seemed my fate, and returned with Cardillac? Madelon rushed to meet me—altered indeed, but restored to life by the sight of him she loved. As I clasped the beautiful girl in my arms and pressed her to my throbbing heart, and vowed never, never to forsake her, I became fettered to her and hers, body and soul!"

Olivier ceased, again overcome by his feelings. Mlle de Scuderi, struck with amazement, exclaimed, "Is it possible? René Cardillac, then, belonged to that band of robbers, whose dreadful deeds have alarmed all Paris?"

"What say you, lady?" cried the prisoner—"the band? Such a band never existed. Cardillac alone it was, who perpetrated all those deeds of blood! In the fact that he alone was engaged in this fearful enterprise, lay his security. Thus the difficulty of tracing the guilt became greatly enhanced. But let me go on, and reveal to you the secret of this most guilty and most unfortunate of men. You may readily conceive my state of mind, after my return to his house. But the step was taken, and I could not go back, though forced to regard myself as an accomplice in his crimes, so long as I remained silent. In Madelon's love, I forgot, at times, my anguish; for she, at least, was innocent; but I could not always crush down the grief that was consuming me. I worked with Cardillac in his shop, but never dared lift my eyes to his face; nor did I speak, except constrained to do so. All day he seemed, as the world supposed him, the honest workman, the tender father; the night only witnessed his deeds of horror. One day he was in unusually good spirits, and talked and laughed while at his work. Suddenly he threw down the ornament he was elaborating; rose from his seat, and said, 'Olivier, the relations between us must be altered; I can endure this no longer. What all the acuteness of Desgrais and his fellows have failed to discover, accident has revealed to you. You saw me do what my evil star compelled; I could not resist; and you will find that it was your evil star also, that led you to the discovery. As you are now situated, you cannot betray me; therefore you shall know all.'—'I will never become your accomplice!' was upon my lips; but I did not speak, for I dared not trust myself to utter what I felt. Cardillac seated himself on his working-bench, and wiped the sweat from his forehead. At length he began: 'An accident that happened to my mother, before my birth, has colored my life. She attended a fete, where she saw a Spaniard with a chain of jewels about his neck. The jewels were rich and brilliant, and attracted my mother's attention; nay, so fascinated was she that she could not take her eyes from the wearer. He had been a suitor of hers before her marriage; an unsuccessful one; and observing the attention with which she regarded him, imagined that she had fallen in love with him, and laid a plan to carry her off."

He seized her, and by force bore her to his carriage, but her screams brought assistance, and in the scuffle the Spaniard was killed. He fell, dragging my mother with him; and it was some time before she was extricated from the corpse. The consequence was a severe illness; and though she recovered, its effects remained. My evil star had arisen, and its influence was shed on me from that hour. I had a passion for jewels from my childhood. I used to steal rings when a boy, for I could not withstand the consuming desire I felt to possess them. And by a sort of instinct I could tell which were real gems, and their comparative value. To gratify my taste for handling precious stones, and follow the supposed bent of my genius, I learned the jeweller's art. I worked with an enthusiasm which was a passion, and soon became celebrated for my skill. Now commenced the era in which the evil influence of my star showed itself predominant. Whenever I was engaged on any important piece of work, such as the setting of valuable stones, I was seized with a restlessness and an anguish that deprived me of sleep, and impaired my health. Day and night stood before me, like a spectre, the person from whom I had received the order, decked with my jewels; while a voice cried in my ear, 'They are yours—they should be yours! Take them; what are diamonds to the dead!' At length I yielded to my destiny. I had entrance to the houses of the great; I had many opportunities for plunder; I used them; no lock withstood me; and thus the jewels I coveted, which I had worked on, were soon again in my hands. But this did not quiet the demon spirit within me. I know not how it was, but I felt an inexpressible hate for those at whose orders I had made ornaments, a thirst for their blood, which condemned me to perpetual wretchedness. It was at this time I purchased this house. Its owner and I arranged the purchase in this very room, over a flask of wine, and he showed me the secret passage, trap-door, and door through the wall. These were built by a monk, who lived in the cloister, and used to go out and come in at night by this secret entrance. I paid the man for this information, and bound him to secrecy. Not long after, I sent home to a gentleman of the court a rich necklace, which I knew was destined for a beautiful opera girl. I went out at night through the secret door; I waylaid the gentleman; I struck my weapon to his heart, and possessed myself of the necklace. This done, I felt a happiness that is indescribable. The evil spirit was laid, I was no longer tormented. But this peace did not continue; my evil star became once more ascendant, and I a victim to the agonies of hell; agonies to be assuaged only by blood. But think not, Olivier, though I could not resist the dreadful impulse, that I have been quite destitute of human sympathy and remorse. You know how reluctantly I have lately undertaken orders; how I have declined working for many, whom I would not injure. You cannot know the struggles I have had with the power that has dominion over me; struggles which, alas, have been too often in vain!"

"When Cardillac had ended, he conducted me to a vault under ground, and showed me his cabinet of jewels. No monarch had a richer collection. 'On the day of your marriage,' said he to me, 'you shall take an oath upon the holy cross, that upon my death you will destroy all these by means I will then place in your hands. I will not have a human being, and least of all Madelon and you, enriched by these blood-stained treasures.'

"Thus, lady, was I prisoner in a labyrinth of crime, the victim of contending feelings. In Madelon I saw the angel who could elevate me to heaven; but then it was as if demoniac hands dragged me again towards the abyss, and I strove to escape in vain. Thus passed some time, and I grew daily more miserable. I thought of flight; of suicide; of Madelon! How could I separate myself from her—from her love? Blame me, lady—if you will; in truth I was weak, not to struggle against the passion that fettered me to crime. But am I not to atone by an ignominious death?"

"One day Cardillac came home unusually cheerful. He looked kindly on me; kissed Madelon; and ordered for dinner a flask of better wine than he commonly drank. When Madelon had left us, I rose to go into the shop. 'Sit still, young man,' said Cardillac; 'no more work to-day: let us drink the health of the most excellent lady in Paris.' Therewith he filled our glasses, and asked me how I liked the sentiment,

*'Un amant qui craint les voleurs n'est point digne d'amour.'*

He proceeded to relate what had passed in the apartments of Madame de Maintenon, between her, yourself and the king, and the spirited reply you had given to the poetical petition. 'Hear, Olivier,' said he, 'my resolution. I have a necklace and bracelets I finished some time since for Henrietta of England. The untimely death of the princess has discharged me from the necessity of sending her the jewels, which I value very highly. I will send them as a token of gratitude to Mlle de Scuderi, in the name of the band of robbers. Thus I mock at Desgrais and the *Chambre Ardente*. You shall carry the present to the lady.'

"As Cardillac named you, honoured lady, it seemed as if a dark veil was torn away, and the fair images of my happy childhood again smiled upon me. There came a ray of hope into my soul, which penetrated its gloomy depths."

"I consented to do the will of my master, and took the casket which he delivered into my hands for you. Through you alone I saw the way which I might be saved—snatched from the ruin that threatened me. I determined, as the son of her you had loved and cherished, to cast myself at your feet and disclose all—all to you. You would have kept the secret, moved by the unspeakable misery that threatened poor Madelon in case of a discovery—but you would have devised some means to arrest the wickedness of Cardillac, without bringing him to public punishment. What those means would be, I could not tell, but that you would save the innocent Madelon and me, I felt in my heart of hearts. You know, madame, how I failed that night in my purpose of seeing you. Yet I relinquished not the hope of being more successful another time. Before long, however, the demeanour of Cardillac changed; he was evidently brooding over some evil. He became moody and restless, and murmured often to himself. One morning as he sat at the work-table, he sprang up hastily, and ran to the window, muttering, 'I wish Henrietta of England had my necklace and bracelets!' I heard this exclamation, and it filled me with terror. I knew that the demon was again within his soul, and nothing but your destruction would satisfy its cravings. I saw no way to save you but by having the jewels restored to Cardillac; and knowing that the danger increased every moment, I resolved to seek and warn you. I followed your carriage on the Pont Neuf, forced my way to it, and threw a note into your lap; you remember its contents. You did not the next day do as I besought you; and my fears rose into despair. Cardillac was more gloomy than ever; it was evident his mind was running on the jewels, for he frequently alluded to them. I could not doubt that he was bent on some terrible deed. But I resolved to save you, even at the price of his life. After Cardillac had retired that night according to his custom, I descended noiselessly into the court, went out by the secret door in the wall, and concealed myself at a little distance. I waited some time—for I had determined to watch the night through. At length Cardillac came forth, by the secret door, and glided down the street. I followed him at a little distance; my heart beat when I saw him going towards the Rue St. Honoré."



Suddenly I lost sight of him; and aware that no time was to be lost, I resolved to place myself as sentinel at your door. But at that instant an officer passed without seeing me, humming a tune, as did the first victim whom I saw Cardillac murder. When he had gone on a few paces, a dark figure, which I recognized as Cardillac's, sprang upon him. I rushed forward with a loud cry; but it was Cardillac, not the officer, who had fallen. The officer, seeing me, drew his sword, and placed himself on the defensive, supposing me an accomplice; but soon seeing that I busied myself only with the wounded man, and did not attack him, he hastened away. Cardillac was living. I took up the dagger with which he had been wounded, and supporting him, assisted, or rather carried him to his own house. The rest is known to you.

"You now know, revered lady, my only crime, that of forbearing to denounce the father of Madelon. I am guilty in thus permitting his infamous deeds; I will bear their punishment—for no torture shall wring from me the dreadful secret. I will never poison the peace of Madelon's life by the knowledge, nor suffer her buried father to be dragged from the asylum of the grave amid the execrations of the people. No! my beloved must mourn over me as a guiltless victim, but time will heal her grief, and she will never be embittered by the knowledge of her father's crimes."

Olivier ceased; but soon after throwing himself at Scuderi's feet, while tears rolled down his cheeks—"You are convinced of my innocence!" he cried—"Have mercy upon me, and tell me—how is it with Madelon?" Scuderi summoned Martiniere, and in a few moments Madelon was in the arms of her lover. "Oh, now! all is well," she exclaimed, "since thou art here! I knew—I knew that noble lady would save thee!" And Olivier forgot his chains and the doom that threatened him: and again and again they embraced each other, with tears of joy.

Had their protectress not been before convinced of the young man's innocence, the sight of such pure, devoted, passionate love, forgetful of all his wretchedness, forgetful of all the world but the one beloved, would have been sufficient to assure her that such a heart could never have harboured thoughts of crime!

It was now late, and Desgrais tapped lightly at the door of the apartment, and reminded them that it was time the prisoner should depart. The lovers were separated. Mlle de Scuderi wept; for though relieved of all the dark suspicions that had before filled her mind, her heart was saddened by the thought that the son of her beloved Anne, though innocent, must in all probability suffer an ignominious death. She honoured the feelings that prompted him to choose death rather than expose to infamy the father of his Madelon; yet no way could she see to save him without revealing this secret.

Anxious, however, to do something, she wrote a letter to La Regnie, in which she expressed the fullest conviction that the prisoner was innocent of Cardillac's death; and declared that only his heroic resolution to bear to the grave a secret whose disclosure would bring unutterable wretchedness upon a good and virtuous person, prevented his making a confession to the court which would prove him guiltless not only of Cardillac's murder, but of all participation in the crimes of the secret band of robbers. The lady spared not argument nor eloquence to soften the heart of the President. In a few hours the answer came, that he was truly glad the prisoner had so favourably impressed the judgment of his distinguished patroness. The prisoner's noble resolution to bury his secret, he was sorry the *Chambre Ardente* could not approve, as she did, nor spare the means in their power to enforce a disclosure. After three days he hoped to be in possession of this secret.

Too well did Scuderi know what those means were; and she resolved upon taking the advice of an eminent lawyer in her extremity. Pierre Arnaud d'Andilly was then the most celebrated advocate in Paris; to him she applied, and told him all, as far as she could, without betraying the secret Brusson desired to conceal. D'Andilly heard her through, and answered, smiling, in the words of Boileau; "*Le vrai peut quelque fois n'être pas vraisemblable.*"—He showed her that under the circumstances, and with the evidence before them, La Regnie had ground for his suspicions; nor did he see how the prisoner could be saved from the torture, without a full and free statement on his part of all that had happened. "Then I will go to the King, and supplicate his mercy!" cried the lady, wiping away her tears. "Not so! for Heaven's sake, not so!" exclaimed D'Andilly. "The King cannot now show clemency to one thus suspected; it would stir up the people to the fiercest indignation. Let the prisoner clear himself, either by confession or otherwise, of the heaviest part of his accusation; then it is time to implore the King's mercy."

Discouraged as she was, Scuderi still resolved not to abandon the unhappy prisoner's cause, so long as there remained a possibility of saving him. That evening as she was sitting alone endeavouring to think of some plan, Martiniere announced the Count de Moisse, an officer of the royal guard.

"I must pray your pardon, lady," said the Count, as with soldierly dignity he bowed on entering, "for intruding upon you at so late an hour. We soldiers cannot wait for convenient seasons; but two words will plead my excuse. Olivier Brusson sent me to you."

"Olivier Brusson!" repeated the lady, startled, "what have you to do with him?"

"I mentioned his name," replied the officer, smiling, "because I know your friendly interest in him, and know it will procure me a gracious hearing. He is, by every one but you, supposed guilty of Cardillac's death; not, however, by every one, for I, lady, agree with you in believing him innocent; and for even a better reason than you have."

"Speak—oh, speak!" cried Scuderi, clasping her hands.

"I was the person, madame, who killed the old jeweller in the street, not far from your house."

"You!" almost gasped the lady.

"I myself," returned the Count; "and I assure you, lady, I am proud of the deed. Know, that it was Cardillac who committed at night so many thefts and robberies, and so long eluded the police. I know not how it was, but the suspicion came into my head one day, when I went to receive some ornaments I had ordered, and the old villain showed great disquietude, asking me for whom I designed the jewelry, and afterwards questioning my servant to know if I visited a certain lady. I was on my guard, and observing that all the murdered were despatched by a dagger stroke through the heart, I protected myself by a piece of linked steel armour, which I wore under my vest. Cardillac fell upon me from behind. His grasp was like that of a giant; but his dagger, which he plunged at my heart, slipped harmlessly across the steel armour. My dagger was in my hand; I turned upon him, and buried it in his bosom."

"And yet you were silent," said the lady, "and did not give information."

"I beg you to observe," interrupted the officer, "that I knew not how such information would be received, nor what it might bring upon me. Would La Regnie, made up of suspicion as he is, believe an accusation against the honest and virtuous Master Cardillac? Would he not more readily turn the sword of law against me?"

"Impossible!" said Scuderi. "Your rank—"

"Think," returned the officer, "of the Marshal de Luxemburg, whose application to Le Sage for his horoscope brought him to the Bastille! No, lady, not an hour of my freedom will I give to La Regnie, who would gladly enough set his cold steel against our throats."

"Then you would bring the innocent Brusson to the scaffold?" demanded the lady.

"Innocent?" repeated the Count. "Do you call him innocent who was an accomplice in Cardillac's crimes? No, lady, I determined to reveal to you all I know; you are at liberty to use the information I have conveyed to you, for the benefit of the prisoner, in any way that does not place me in the hands of the *Chambre Ardente*."

It was no part of the lady's nature to spare any exertion where innocence was to be succored; and after this evidence of the truth of Olivier's statement, she determined on disclosing all to D'Andilly, under a promise of secrecy.

D'Andilly received her information, and himself questioned the officer, particularly with respect to his knowledge of Cardillac's person, and of the man who followed him. The Count replied that it was light enough for him to see the goldsmith, whom he could not mistake; he had killed him with the very dagger he had since seen in the possession of La Regnie. The young man who came up as the jeweller fell, had his hat drawn over his features; but he saw enough of his face to be able to recognize him again.

D'Andilly's opinion, after some deliberation, was, that the evidence, though sufficient to produce a moral certainty of Brusson's innocence, would not release him from the hands of the law. Even if acquitted of Cardillac's murder, suspicion would fasten upon him as the accomplice of his crimes. All they could hope was in delay. Count de Moisse must repair to the Conciergerie, identify the prisoner's person, and then relate before the tribunal what had occurred. Then it was the time to supplicate the King's mercy; and he would counsel that nothing be concealed from his majesty. In his sense of justice, in his internal conviction of the truth, lay the result.

The Count did as he was advised to do; and Scuderi undertook to speak to the King. This was no easy matter, as the popular horror of the supposed crime rendered Louis unwilling to interfere with the execution of the law. Madame de Maintenon's resolution, never to speak to the King of disagreeable matters, placed her assistance out of the question. The prisoner's fate lay in the hands of Mlle de Scuderi. She appeared in the apartment of Madame de Maintenon, at the hour when the King was expected. In her rich dark dress and flowing veil, her noble figure had a dignity that commanded attention; and always observant of grace and majesty, the King noticed her as soon as he came in. Mlle de Scuderi told her moving story in as few words as possible, but omitting not a single circumstance. She related the incidents of Brusson's early life, his acquaintance with Cardillac, and domestication in his family; his discovery of the master's guilt, and the circumstances of his death. With a trembling voice, as she saw Louis listened with deep interest, she described the scene with La Regnie, with the prisoner, and with the Count de Moisse; concluding with a prayer for mercy, as she knelt at the King's feet.

The King had heard her with great surprise and agitation; he raised her from her kneeling posture, and inquired more minutely into the evidence that substantiated Olivier's confession; also with regard to the secret entrance into Cardillac's house. "It is a strange story," said he, at length; and turning to the door, summoned Louvois, with whom he left the apartment for some minutes. Both Maintenon and Scuderi looked upon this absence as unfavourable to their hopes. But Louis soon returned: paced the room several times with his hands behind him; then coming towards Scuderi, he said; "I would see this young girl—this Madelon."

The lady almost shrieked with joy, for she now felt confident of success. She left the room, and ere long Madelon herself knelt at the King's feet. Never was entreaty more earnest and intense than that expressed in her clasped hands and tearful eyes, as in speechless supplication she raised them to the King's face. Louis seemed struck by her singular beauty. He raised her from the ground, and led her to a seat; and as he did so, Maintenon whispered to her friend, "See, how like she is to La Vallière!"

It might have been that Louis heard this remark; a flush passed over his brow; he glanced at Maintenon; and turning to Madelon, said: "I can well believe, my girl, that you are convinced of the innocence of your lover: but let us hear what the *Chambre Ardente* says to it."

At these words, which seemed the knell of her hopes, Mlle de Scuderi was ready to sink to the earth. She had no doubt they were owing to the ill-timed allusion of Madame de Maintenon. On such small things often hang the fate of men! But there was nothing now but patiently to abide the King's pleasure.

Count de Moisse's deposition was speedily known among the people, and as it often happens, the multitude passed directly from one extreme to the other. Those who a few days before execrated the prisoner, and called the scaffold too mild a punishment, now were loudest in outcries for his release, and proclaimed him an innocent victim. The neighbours now remembered his mild and amiable deportment, his attachment to Madelon, and the fidelity and diligence with which he served his master. The multitude surrounded La Regnie's house from morning till night, crying out that Olivier Brusson must be set at liberty, and throwing stones at the window, so that the President was obliged to summon the police to protect his dwelling.

Many days passed, during which Mlle de Scuderi heard nothing of Brusson's business. She went to Maintenon, but received no consolation from her; for she said the king observed silence upon the subject, and would doubtless be displeased if reminded of it. She then asked with a smile, "how the little La Vallière was?" Scuderi was convinced that in the bosom of that proud woman lurked a prejudice against her protégé—even because her mention of that name had caused emotion in the King.

At length, through D'Andilly, she learned that Louis had had a long private interview with the Count de Moisse: also that Bontems, the king's confidential agent, had been to the Conciergerie, and conversed with Brusson; and lastly, that Bontems, with several others, had gone at night to examine Cardillac's house and the premises. He was certainly tracing each link of the evidence. But would La Regnie suffer any evidence to loosen his hold on the victim? All was in the dark.

Weeks passed thus: when one morning Mlle de Scuderi received a messenger from Maintenon, informing her the King wished to see her that evening in her (Maintenon's) apartments. Scuderi's heart beat, for she felt that the decisive hour was come. She comforted the poor Madelon, however, and desired her to occupy the time of her absence in prayer for the one dear to them both.

When Louis joined the ladies, it seemed that he had quite forgotten the whole matter. He was cheerful, and talked gaily on many subjects, but said not a word of Brusson. At length Bontems entered, and whispered a few words in



his ear. The king then rose, advanced towards Mlle de Scuderi, and said with a smile, "I wish you joy, Mademoiselle! you protegee, Olivier Brusson, is free!"

Overcome by the surprise of joy, and unable to express her feelings in words, Scuderi would have sunk at the King's feet. He prevented her, saying, "Go, go! you should be parliament's advocate, and undertake all my causes; for, by St. Denys, nothing on earth can withstand your eloquence! Yet"—pursued he more seriously; "it was a hard business! The protegee of virtue herself cannot be sure of acquittal before such courts!"

The lady at length found words to thank the King for his clemency and generosity. Louis interrupted by informing her that much warmer thanks awaited her at her own house, where the lovers had met to part no more. "Bon-terms," concluded he, "shall count out a thousand louis-d'ors, which you may give in my name to the maiden as her dower. She may marry Brusson, who really merits not so happy a lot—but they must both leave Paris. That is my will."

As the good lady returned home, Martiniere came to meet her, followed by Pierre, and both crying joyfully "He is free—he is here!" The happy lovers threw themselves at the feet of their benefactress. "I knew—I knew," cried Madelon, "that you, and you alone would save him!" "I trusted in you from the beginning, my mother!" cried Olivier, and both kissed the worthy lady's hands, and bathed them with tears. And then they embraced each other, and protested that the rapture of that moment repaid them for all their past sufferings.

They were united in a few days; and as, according to the king's will, Brusson was to leave Paris, he removed with his wife, after taking a tender farewell of Mlle de Scuderi, to Geneva. He would not have remained in Paris had it been left at his option; where everything reminded him of Cardillac's crimes. Madelon's dower was sufficient to set him up in business, and his skill in workmanship soon enabled him to earn a competence.

About a year after Brusson's departure, a public proclamation appeared, drawn up and signed by Harry de Chamvalon, the Archbishop, and by the Advocate, Pierre Arnaud d'Andilly, announcing that a quantity of jewels stolen from different persons had been recovered from the house of a criminal removed by death from the punishment of human justice. All who had been robbed of jewels before the time specified of his death, the end of the year 1680, were summoned to appear at the house of d'Andilly, and claim and prove their property. If the proof was satisfactory, it was to be restored to them. Many who had been knocked down and robbed by Cardillac, came forward and recovered their treasures. The remaining treasure became the property of the church of St. Eustache.

### Imperial Parliament.

#### STATE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

*House of Commons, July 28.*

On reading the order of the day for going into committee of supply.

Lord J. RUSSELL rose and said,—I take this opportunity of bringing under the notice of the House the general state of this country. So doing, I shall be adopting the constitutional method of former times, of considering before going into committee of supply anything which might affect the interests of the country, and which is appropriately brought forward at the time when the Government calls upon the house to grant supplies for the public service. I am about to state matters deeply concerning the welfare of the country, but I am not about to do what has been done by others, and by the present Lord Chancellor, whose speeches on such occasions were published and circulated through the country. It might naturally be asked what had become of the great majorities which were arrayed in support of the Government? and if that question were asked, perhaps a similar answer might be given to it as had been given to his constituents by the right Hon. baronet the member for Dorchester, who described himself and his colleagues as acting in a state of constitutional harmony with the majority. ["Hear" and a laugh.] That, said the Noble Lord, was no doubt a very happy condition of a Government, and it might be amusing to inquire what were the instruments on which they performed, and what were the tunes played in this happy musical accord? [Laughter.] I do not think that "Rule Britannia" was one of them. [Laughter and cheers from the Opposition benches.] I apprehend that the agricultural interest will hardly admit that "Oh, the Roast Beef of Old England" was in the performance. [Laughter.] The Irish gentleman will not be able to discover "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning" amongst the tunes. [Laughter.] We can hardly find even "God save the Queen," and the tune which we can recognize will be that sometimes sung by the glee-singers after dinners "We are all a noddin" (much laughter) and this was the amount of the harmony derived from that musical combination of which the right Hon. Gentleman the member for Dorchester spoke to his constituents. I come to consider what is the general state of the country, and in what condition the Government are about to leave it after six months of legislative labours. I shall have to say a few words as to our foreign relations; but first let me offer a remark as to one question, with respect to which I think the Government has placed itself in a situation of some anomaly—I allude to the war in Scinde. Several of my Hon. friends have asked for information as to this war, and the Government promised that the papers connected with it should be laid before the House, and some of them have been so laid; but looking to the period of the session at which we are arrived, I do not see even if the whole of the papers were before it how the House of Commons can now enter into a full consideration of the subject; but I think we might have been in a condition to form an opinion as to the origin of the war, had the Government given some information respecting it a little earlier. It has been stated as a rumour—but for its authority I will not vouch—that the Governor-General made several demands on the Ameers of Scinde, and they had complied; but that, notwithstanding these concessions, the army was ordered to advance, and that then, finding their concessions of no avail, the Ameers, driven to desperation, ordered Major Outram and his escort to quit their territory. This may be true or not, but I ask, whether the Government does not intend to offer any opinion as to the commencement of this war? The Government have stated that particular instructions were sent out, to which, from their nature, it would not be prudent to give publicity. I am ready to admit the force of that policy under many circumstances, but I think that when such acts have been done by the agent of Government as ended in our occupation of the territory of Scinde it would not be an unusual course for the Government to say whether they justified or defended the acts of that agent. That was the course we took with respect to the war in Afghanistan and China to which the right Hon. Gentleman opposite has since referred. We stated at the time that we were ready to defend the conduct of the Governor-General of India for his acts, and the Home Government for the instructions which it had sent out. Sir, it appears to me that there is a

great difference between a due caution and reserve with respect to particular instructions sent out to be acted upon when received, and the justification of a war entered into to which such instructions might refer. I think it is not asking too much of the Government to say, whether or not the war was undertaken until all means of pacific negotiation were exhausted, and that then only recourse was had to force in order to repel force? Is the Government prepared to say that the Governor-General found the Ameers intriguing against the British power—for if some such cause did not exist, then I say that the attack on them was a wanton aggression on his part, and contrary and inconsistent with his own proclamation, in which he declared that he had no intention of attempting any conquest beyond the Indus. Will the Government continue silent with respect to the origin of a war in which a country has been taken possession of and its princes made prisoners, because of the consummate bravery of the troops by which those results have been obtained? Sir, I contend, that with the means of information which it possessed it ought long since to have declared whether it approved of the war or not. (Cheers from the Opposition.) Last year we were told that in looking at the state of our finances, we ought not to omit from our consideration the debts incurred with respect to our operations in India and China; but this year we hear nothing on the subject, though the expenses may be as heavy; and why this silence on a matter on which we have as much reason to speak as we had then? Why, because they are now incurred under Lord Ellenborough, they were then under the government of Lord Auckland, and nothing more is to be said against them. But, Sir, let me add, that acting on the advice given last year by the right Hon. Baronet at the head of the Government, that we should not omit from our financial calculations the expenses which we might be called upon to bear for India, I think it somewhat extraordinary that we should now be called on to go into committee of supply, and vote, probably, the last supplies of the year, without being informed by the Government whether we are engaged in a just or an unjust war in Scinde, whether we are to have a continuation of last year's expenses, or whether we have succeeded in accomplishing all that is necessary in that country. I would beg the attention of the house to what has been the falling off in our trade of late years. In the year 1841 the declared value of our exports was £54,609,358; in 1842 it was £50,738,151, showing a decrease between those years of £3,871,307. There have lately been laid before the house papers to which I shall refer. They relate chiefly to our trade with the United States and the Brazils, and go over a period of 10 years. I have taken, with respect to some of our manufactured articles, the average of five of those years before the last, and compared them with that year. I leave out the year 1836, which was a year of extraordinary exports to the United States. (Hear, hear.) I think the exports to the United States in that year exceeded £12,000,000. I first take cotton and yarn manufactures, and I find the average exports of the five years was in value £1,361,694, while the exports in 1842 amounted to no more than 487,276. Of linen yarn the average export of the five years was £1,015,038. In the year 1842 it was £463,645. Of silks the average export of the five years was £289,838. In 1842 it was 81,240. With regard to woollen articles the average export of the five years was 1,353,002. In the year 1842 it was 842,355. The total of the exports, not of those articles already named alone, but comprising some others, was £6,700,370, while in 1842 it was 3,528,807, being a decrease of £3,171,563.

I shall now take those to the Brazils, of which I take the total without going to separate items, and I find that the average amount of the five years was £2,462,761, while in the year 1842 it was £1,756,805, being a decrease of £695,956, and adding this to the decrease in the exports to the United States, it shows a total decrease in the exports to the two countries of £3,867,819. This, Sir, is an alarming decrease upon the five years, but it is instructive, as well as alarming, if we look to the countries in which our trade has thus fallen off. It shows you that your own plans of putting a high duty on foreign corn with a sliding scale, raising that duty at the present time to 40 per cent., and a duty on Brazilian sugar amounting to almost a prohibition, are now returned to you by the United States in a high tariff, and by the Brazils in preparations for excluding your produce altogether. [Hear.] Look now to the decrease in your exports to only two of the countries with which you were dealing, to the amount of £3,800,000, in consequence of your almost utter prohibition of their products. This presents a most serious and alarming aspect of affairs; and let me ask what have you done in your legislation of the last six months to promote the well-doing and the export of those manufactures upon the prosperity of which depend your prosperity in peace and your strength in war? Have you passed any measures which could promote the export of your manufactures to the United States? Have you done any thing to increase your exports to, and improve your import trade from the Brazils? Last year the Government proposed a measure with respect to the importation of corn and kine, which had the effect of inducing a large portion of the agriculturists to believe that it was your object to continue the system of protection to the producer. In that expectation they were disappointed. [Cheers.] Having given that warning last year by declaring your principles, it should have been your object during the present session to endeavour to relieve the trade and manufactures of the country by admitting many of the articles the produce of the United States and the Brazils free of all, or at least of any high duty. I am aware, and I think it a most fortunate circumstance, that there exists a large tract of country in the United States most fertile in the production of wheat, which, to the growing population of this country, might be made a great blessing, if we took a fair advantage of it; and the distance of the place of its growth is so great, and the cost of transit so high, that even with the very lowest duty, I am sure its introduction here could not compete with the British corn grower, or in any way injure his interests. The climate of the United States of America varies so much in several parts from this country and from many other parts of Europe, that it seems a bounty of Providence that when your harvests are short in those places, there are countries beyond the Atlantic which can supply your deficiency. Have you done any thing to render these circumstances so advantageous to the people of this country as they might be made? Nothing of the kind. But there was another course which, though less beneficial, you might have adopted. You might have said to both parties that you had gone a considerable way in relaxing restrictions on foreign produce, and that you were disposed to rest during the present year, in order to give the agricultural interests time to consider if there were any fair grounds for those apprehensions which they entertained if corn were to be placed on the same footing as other articles. This was the time to pause and endeavour to meet the enlightened views which the agriculturists were beginning to take upon this subject; but, instead of doing so, what was the course which the Government had pursued? They brought in the Canadian Corn Bill, a measure in itself of little or no benefit to this country, as the corn would have to come by a circuitous, a difficult, and an expensive route, rendering but a trifling, if any, advantage, whilst the measure excited the utmost alarm amongst the whole body of the agriculturists, reviving in full force their prejudices against the principles of free trade—principles which



the hon. gentlemen opposite last year appeared so anxious to advance. This is to be considered a very serious misfortune; but still there is room for the settlement of the great question. Men of eminence in the United States, leading men, by whose opinion the people of that country are influenced, seem inclined to concede the principles of their high protecting tariff of the present and former times, and express themselves ready to abandon it if we will but afford them a market in Great Britain for their agricultural produce. [Hear, hear.] Sir, it seems to me impossible to conceive anything which would be more advantageous to both countries. [Cheers.] We have here in this country a large population, who are obliged to import food for consumption. We have also a power to such an extent that hon. gentlemen opposite frequently complained of the skill, ability, and productiveness with which it was set in motion. [Hear, hear.] In the United States they have large tracts of land capable of nearly all sorts of cultivation. They have also manufactories for a coarser sort of goods, which may go on flourishing without any injury to us, and may be imported by this country at a low rate of duty. There are, therefore, between the two countries the mutual advantages that we might import their agricultural produce to a large amount without any dangerous competition, owing to the distance from which it has to be brought, and that they might import our manufactures without any danger to the consumption of their coarser fabrics. [Cheers.] Has not the state of trade materially affected the finances of the country? When we discussed the subject in 1841 we were of opinion that there would be a deficiency in the finance, which, though it would be of considerable importance, we conceived to be of less consequence than the defalcation in trade. We pointed out the means of obviating this deficiency by the adoption of the principles of free trade. That was the scheme which we, who were then called miserable financiers, pointed out at the time. We did not propose to impose fresh burdens on the people, but to give a new impulse to the industry of the country, and to increase its consumption, whilst at the same time we looked forward to the chance of considerable retrenchment when the hostilities in China were brought to a conclusion. From this policy the present Government differed. They repudiated our plan with respect to corn and sugar, though in the article of timber they did something, and yet even in that it was doubtful if the course they had pursued was wise or beneficial in proportion to the change. [Ironical cheers from the Treasury benches.] The Right Hon. Baronet at the head of the Government, when introducing the measure of his new tariff, was very eloquent upon principles of free trade, but whilst discarding on those principles he introduced the tariff in conjunction with the income-tax, from which he calculated £2,700,000 a-year, and in doing so the Right Hon. Gentleman calculated upon a surplus of £500,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, in stating the result of his financial measures, instead of showing that there was a surplus of half a million, proved that there was a deficiency of £2,400,000. That was the result of the operation of the system adopted and pursued by the Right Hon. Baronet. If the Right Hon. Gentleman says that this deficiency is the consequence of decreased consumption I quite agree with him; but I must at the same time ask why, in the year 1841, did you refuse to look at the corn duties and sugar duties in order to ascertain whether the deficiencies could be made up from these sources? [Hear, hear.] The House must bear in mind that these are the results of the administration of Ministers who have been always blaming us on the ground of deficiency, and were ready at all times to throw upon our shoulders censure upon that score. [Cheers from the Opposition benches.] In his statement respecting the future year, the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is usually very plain and clear in his statements, found it so difficult to proceed, that he was obliged to have recourse to an evasion. The deficiency for this year, according to the Right Hon. Gentleman's own estimate, appears to be £1,300,000. Why did not the Right Hon. Gentleman openly say so? Instead of doing that the Right Hon. Gentleman said—"There are £2,000,000 which I put aside, and for which I shall otherwise provide." I suppose the Right Hon. Gentleman intended to make fresh provision by incurring fresh debts, as he has not stated any other mode by which he proposed to make the provision. [Hear, hear.] If you had only recourse to those principles of free trade so ably explained by the Right Hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, you might have done something to make up the deficiency; but, notwithstanding your own incomparable skill in financing, and though you call us miserable financiers—[cheers and laughter,]—you have not been able to surmount the difficulties by which you are beset. [Hear, hear.] There was another course to which I thought Government might have resorted to to free them from their present difficulties; I mean, that when the hostilities with China ceased, and when we were in a state of peace, Government would have effected some diminution in our naval and military establishments. [Hear, hear.] Can they do that now? Before going further into the main question, I must call the attention of the house to the state of a country which has hitherto been remarkable for peace and industry—I mean Wales. [Hear, hear.] On the state in which Wales now is we have had no explanation, nor have we been told how it is that matters were allowed to get to such a head there as we now find them. We have no reason assigned for that state of things, nor have we any remedy proposed to correct it, except the sending off of dragons, who, it appears, cannot come up with the offenders. How is it, that a people so generally quiet, orderly, and obedient, have been brought to such a state as they now exhibit? and why is it that we have no other remedy proposed than the sending over of dragons? The main question to which the attention of Parliament must be directed, and it will be so directed when the question of the Hon. Member for Sheffield comes under discussion, is that relating to the state of Ireland. At all events, if left in its present state, it must be the very first subject to be taken into consideration at the commencement of the ensuing session. [Hear, hear.] The greater part of the population are advocating repeal of the union; speeches of the most exciting character are addressed to them—speeches not merely insisting upon the advantages which would accrue to the country in being legislated for by persons more conversant with the wants and habits of the people than those who sit in this house, but provoking the strongest national animosities, not alone against the Government, but as against the entire population of England. [Hear, hear.] When we handed the Government over to you that country was tranquil, and when we told you the only measure you adopted towards it on coming to the Government was to diminish the magistracy, your answer was, that Mr. O'Connell spoke in harsher terms of Lord Fortescue than he did of Sir Edward Sugden. [Hear, hear.] This is the only point upon which, at your side of the house, Mr. O'Connell is quoted as an authority. [Cheers.] Now if I were to quote him as speaking of the Duke of Wellington or Sir Robert Peel [hear, hear], I certainly should not quote him as a sound opinion, nor could I do it with the due respect which I entertain for them. [Cheers and laughter.] I am rather ashamed of the language than inclined to quote it, and yet as regards Lord Fortescue, this is the whole of your case, and this is the authority upon which you rely. [Cheers.] If Mr. O'Connell prefers your government of Ireland to ours—if, as he boasts, while you are in office his power is increased, and the patriotism of the people more strongly excited, we are not to wonder at

the preference. [Loud cheers.] When we find that the rent has risen from £900 to £15,000, within two given periods of three months—when Mr. O'Connell is able to show a better budget than the Chancellor of the Exchequer—[cheers and laughter]—when his power throughout Ireland is increasing to an extent far beyond what he possessed under a Whig Administration, it is by no means to be wondered at that he is rejoiced to have to deal with such an Administration as the present. [Loud cheers from the Opposition benches.] When I had a share in the Administration I thought it well that the Government should have the support of a man who possessed so much influence amongst his countrymen. I did not think it advisable that any man in the country should possess more authority than the Lord-Lieutenant, who stood there as the representative of the Queen. [Hear, hear.] Hon. gentlemen opposite, when we were in office, were constantly talking of the influence of Mr. O'Connell in Ireland. I thought at the time that he would have less influence whilst we held the Government than under a Tory Government, and the events which have since taken place sufficiently prove the soundness of that opinion. Lord Fortescue and Lord Morpeth exhibited a sympathy with the people; they went amongst them, and the latter began to recant their opinions on repeal. During the late Administration the Irish Executive possessed great power over public opinion. The power of Mr. O'Connell was less dangerous; and, even if he were inclined at that time to excite the people, he could not have exercised the uncontrolled dominion over their hearts which he now appears to possess. [Hear, hear.] It is now admitted on all hands that the power of Mr. O'Connell in Ireland is increasing. Compare the different position of your Executive in Ireland with ours. [Hear, hear.] Your Executive in that country sits inactive and inefficient. Mr. O'Connell has threatened the Government and Parliament of this country that he will summon a convention in Dublin, which shall escape the penalties of the Convention Act—which shall curiously and cautiously evade the law, but which sitting in Dublin, shall exercise the power of representing the people of Ireland. Is the Government prepared for such a case? Will not the opinion of the people, that they have been wronged, and that the English Parliament, the representatives of the English nation, are the doors of that wrong, instead of diminishing, grow stronger and stronger in consequence of your measures of coercion? I do hope that the Government will consider deeply of this question; and that this house will not enter on so fatal a course, but will adopt such measures as may satisfy the mind of the Irish people, and assure them that we in this house are really and truly their representatives. In adopting measures of this kind, you will be enabled in future years, as you have been in past, to withdraw or diminish your military force in Ireland as may suit your convenience or arrangements, without any fear of outbreaks and disturbance in that country. [Hear, hear.] If you do not adopt such measures the consequence would certainly be what I have pointed out; it might be worse, and scenes of lamentable conflict might take place; but at best you would have the mind of the Irish people altogether alienated from you, and their feelings embittered towards the people of this country; and in speaking to foreign countries, and holding up your head to the world, Ireland would then not be your source of strength, but would be known as the cause of your weakness. [Hear, hear.] It is in your power, if my observations are well founded, to wean the people of Ireland from their attachment to the cause of repeal, and to induce them to believe that in this house we, their representatives, would do them full justice with respect to any kind of complaint, and would adopt any well-considered measures of relief. If you take this course the power of this country, instead of being diminished, will be immensely strengthened for any purpose of foreign or home policy which you may contemplate; but, if you resolve to take the other course—if, representing, as I think you do, two opinions (one opinion being that you ought to stand still and resist every change, and the other opinion being that you ought to go on in measures of improvement and conciliation)—if, representing these two opinions, you dare to take no vigorous measures in support of either one or other opinion, depend on it this country will long lament that in the hands of such men the destinies of so great and powerful a nation as this were ever placed. [The noble lord sat down amidst loud cheers.]

Sir R. PEEL then rose, and said:—It is not my intention to find fault with the Noble Lord for the course he has thought fit to pursue on the present occasion. I admit that it is perfectly open to him, in the discharge of his constitutional duty, on a motion for a committee of supply, to deliver his sentiments with respect to the conduct of the Government and the position of public affairs, without being under the necessity of testing the opinion of the house by any distinct proposition implying censure on or a want of confidence in the Government. The Noble Lord alluded, in the first place, to the progress made in legislation; and he said that nothing would be more easy than to draw up an account of the measures with which we (the Government) commenced the session, and in respect to which no progress had been made in bringing them to maturity. It is quite true that in the execution of our public duty we were desirous, in conformity with the recommendation contained in the speech from the Throne, to suggest to the consideration of the House measures connected with the improvement of the law and the domestic condition of the people. It is equally true, that we have been compelled to relinquish the hope that those measures would be brought to a successful result. We proposed measures for facilitating the recovery of small debts, for improving the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the country, and for the purpose of extending throughout the country—at least in the manufacturing districts of the country—the advantage of moral and religious education. [Hear, hear.] Is it our fault that, with respect to these measures, we have been unable to make any progress? Have we shown any unwillingness to devote our time to the consideration of measures in the Legislature? The Noble Lord says that we command a great majority in the House. Does that circumstance enable us to prevent the discussions which have taken place in this House, or to control the opposition by which some of the measures of the Government have been met? [Hear, hear.] Is it our fault that a practice has grown up of continuing, from night to night by adjournment, debates on public affairs? [Hear, hear.] If at any time we suggest that the time had arrived for closing the discussion, and even if our suggestion be in conformity with the general sense of the House, has it not been the practice to meet that suggestion by motions of adjournment? Is it not notorious that it is not in the power of a majority, however united, to control these discussions if a small party were determined to force on motions of adjournments. The Noble Lord spoke with a taunt of our abandonment of the education plan. At any rate, we brought it forward not for the purpose of increasing our own power, or of giving undue power to the church, but as the result of a careful revision of the condition of the manufacturing population, and of a deep impression that other measures than coercion and force were necessary for laying the foundations of good order. [Hear, hear.] We had a sincere and earnest hope that there was a wide-spread conviction throughout the country that a measure of this kind was necessary, and we entertained the expectation that some scheme of combined education, founded on religion and inculcating the great truths of Christianity, might be proposed to Parliament, and that the church and Dissenters



would be content to acquiesce in its execution. This was the motive alone which induced us to prepare and propose the measure to Parliament. But were we not justified in making the attempt to prevail upon the Church to relinquish and surrender some of its feelings and prejudices on the subject of a combined system of education? and were we equally not justified when, despairing of cordial concert and harmonious co-operation, we, like prudent men, did not persist in forcing a measure against the will of those classes without whose co-operation and concert and assistance we could not hope for a successful working of the measure? [Hear, hear.] With the opinions expressed by the Noble Lord opposite (Lord J Russell) upon the first statement of that measure, looking at the amendments which the Noble Lord gave notice of his intention to propose, and after the approbation which I understood the Noble Lord to express upon the ultimate relinquishment of the measure, I own I am somewhat surprised at the tone in which the Noble Lord has spoken of the course which her Majesty's Government has taken with reference to the relinquishment of the bill. [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord next proceeded to discuss our foreign policy, and the single charge which the Noble Lord has brought forward against us, as connected with our foreign policy, is not the course which we have thought it right to take with regard to Scinde, but our unwillingness to present to the House at this moment the instructions which we have felt it our duty to give with respect to the affairs of Scinde. I know not how it has happened that the Noble Lord has glanced so lightly over our foreign policy. [Hear.] I should have supposed that the Noble Lord, in dealing with that part of the question which he himself has raised, would have contrasted the position of this country now with the position in which the present Government had found the foreign policy on their accession to office, not merely with regard to the United States of America, but with reference to the feelings prevalent in France as to this country. [Hear, hear.] As, however, the Noble Lord had included Scinde and the transactions there, he might, on overlooking the map of Scinde, have cast his eye a little to the north-east of that district of country, and have alluded to the position in which her Majesty's present advisers found British power in Afghanistan. [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord asked, "Why not lay before the House the instructions you have given, and enable us to judge of the course you mean to pursue?" Are the operations in the field yet concluded? [Hear, hear.] Is it certain that a single shot has not yet to be fired? I cannot undertake to say that the military operations in that district are entirely concluded, but I can undertake to say that it is not consistent with the duty of the Government, while military operations are proceeding, to lay before the House, in the shape of their instructions, their views as to the course to be pursued in the future government of that country. [Hear.] I can believe that a premature disclosure of those views and intentions might seriously compromise British interests in that part of the globe. [Hear.] The time will come when her Majesty's Government will state the course they have taken, but until I know that the military operations have been concluded, that peace has been restored, and that tranquillity has been established, it is our duty to withhold the production of the instructions we have issued and which the Noble Lord seemed so anxious to peruse. [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord then proceeded to take a review of the commercial policy of the country, and alluded in particular to the nature of the commercial transactions between this country and the United States, and between this country and the Brazils. No doubt it is greatly to be lamented that our intercourse, our commercial intercourse with the United States, had greatly diminished. However, at various periods that intercourse has been subject to great and considerable fluctuations. The Noble Lord has referred to several years in succession, and had taken the average of those years as exhibiting our commercial intercourse with the United States. Now, from the papers which the Noble Lord has quoted, I will read some of the instances in which very great changes have taken place with regard to our commercial intercourse with the United States. In 1836 the amount of our dealings with the United States amounted in exports of our manufactures to £12,427,000. In the next year they amounted to £12,460,097. In the year following to £8,839,000. In the year following they suddenly fell to £5,200,000. In the next year they rose to £7,098,000; and in the last year they were unfortunately reduced to £3,528,000. [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord said, that this commercial intercourse could be increased either by the operation of commercial treaties, or by means of reducing our import duties upon articles, the produce of the United States. [Hear, hear.] Now, I should not consider it at all prudent, on an occasion like the present, to express any opinion—any positive opinion with respect to commercial treaties. I must say, that the experience of recent attempts to conclude commercial treaties has not been very favourable. But I must say that the course we have pursued with regard to America, the reduction we have made in the duties upon the import of American products, has not been so immediately followed by the United States as we had a right to expect (hear, hear); and, when the Noble Lord predicts that if we make a further reduction we should be met with a corresponding spirit, all I can say is that past experience hardly justifies the Noble Lord in that prediction. [Hear, hear.] Last year, by the tariff then proposed and adopted, we made considerable reductions upon the duties imposed upon the import of the products of the United States—we gave them great encouragement to carry on commercial proceedings with our colonies. [Hear.] Now, what course, after these concessions, had the United States pursued? Notwithstanding the example of liberality which this country had set in July, 1842, the United States imposed a high tariff, and to this may be attributed the falling off of the amount of the export of British products to the United States. [Hear, hear.] That tariff had been adopted within a few months after we made the reduction. [Hear, hear.] I cannot deny the falling off of the traffic between the two countries; but at the same time I cannot admit to the Noble Lord that, viewing the state of our commercial relations within the last six months, we should be justified in adopting the recommendations of the Noble Lord. I have the satisfaction of thinking that within the last six months there have been indications of improvement in some branches of the manufactures and commerce of this country. [Hear, hear.] I hold in my hand a return of the amount of the exports of British produce from the united kingdom for the six months ending the 6th of July, 1842, and on comparing the declared value of the exports of the present with the declared value of the exports of the preceding year, though there has not been that improvement which I could wish, still there has been a manifest advance. But now with respect to the cotton manufactures. It was stated last year that the cotton trade was so bad that we might make up our minds to a still greater depression. Has that prediction been verified? [Hear.] The extent of consumption of cotton has been exceedingly great. I have in my hands a return showing the number of bags of cotton imported into England and Scotland, and taken for consumption for the first six months from the year 1835 to 1843, both included. From this return I find that in 1835 there were 451,984 bags of cotton taken for consumption; in 1836, 474,902; in 1837, 497,302; and in the present year, 1843, the number was 688,584 bags. [Hear, hear.] Look, then, at the declared value of our exports; in the first six months of the year 1842 our exports of cotton yarn amounted to 58,000,000lb., and in the same period of

the present year to 62,000,000lb.; our exports of cotton thread in the first six months of last year amounted to 935,000lb., and in this year to 1,324,000lb. The exports of printed calicoes in the year 1842 was 123,781,000 yards, and in 1843, 145,295,000 yards. As to the exportations of plain calicoes, the increase had been enormous, for in the first six months of the last year there had been exported from this country 152,827,000 yards, and in the same time of the present year there had been exported 253,318,000 yards. [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord complains that we have not this year brought forward any extensive measures for the alteration of the corn laws. I think if we had done so the Noble Lord would have been the first to tell us that we ought not to agitate the question of the corn laws, and that last year we ought to have determined what relaxation we would make, and that now to propose such a relaxation would be destructive both of the confidence of the people and of the industry of the country. [Hear, hear.] As to the Canadian Wheat Bill, it was not brought forward this year as the spontaneous act of the Government. The Noble Lord knows full well, that last session, when the corn laws were under consideration, expectations were held out to the Canadas that in case they passed certain measures there would be further facilities given to the exportation of their corn into this country, and that it was in the fulfilment of the promise of last year that the measure of the present session had been produced. The Noble Lord had in the course of his speech alluded to the financial policy of the Government. I ask the House to bear in mind what was the condition of the finances of the country when the present Government came into power. [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord said, that in April last there had been a great deficiency in the receipts of the income-tax, but he forgot that my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer had explained that the whole sum arising from that tax had not been received. But we not only introduced measures imposing taxation upon property, rather than resort to taxation upon articles of consumption, but at the same time we imposed taxation upon articles of consumption, but at the same time we imposed taxation upon property we removed many of the duties which we thought inflicted restrictions upon commerce. [Hear, hear.] In some respects the tariff which we carried has not come into full operation. [Hear, hear.] I consider that in so short a period many parts of the tariff cannot have been tested; and therefore the time is not arrived to form a just opinion upon the tariff. But, so far as the experiment has gone, and as far as its effects are known, I think it is satisfactory. My firm opinion is, that the vigorous measure we resorted to for replenishing the public coffers—the levying of a tax upon property, was absolutely necessary for the public credit of the country. The noble lord then adverted to our domestic administration and he spoke of the unfortunate disposition to insurrection which has manifested itself in Wales and says that there has not been a sufficient explanation of the causes of that insurrection. But when the Noble Lord implies blame to the Government with respect to the insurrection in South Wales, he might have recollected what passed in that country when he administered public affairs. [Hear, hear.] Does the Noble Lord recollect what took place at Newport? [Hear, hear.] Does he forget the loss of life which happened upon that occasion? Does he recollect the attack upon that town which was led on by Mr. Frost? [Hear.] Does he recollect his own proposition for an increase of the military force to the extent of 5,000 additional men, in the year 1839, for the purpose of suppressing the disturbance in Wales at that time? The Noble Lord then stated that the Government had been taunted with apathy and remissness in the execution of their duty, and went very fully into the difficulties which there were in immediately suppressing those disturbances by the force of arms. The Noble Lord said there were numerous meetings at which the most inflammatory language was used, and where treasonable and seditious words were spoken; and he said he was most unwilling to resort to new measures of force; he thought that every effort ought to be made by the exertion and vigilance of the Government and by the application of the ordinary powers of the law to suppress those disturbances. [Hear, hear.] But the Noble Lord added,—"But while I always held these opinions I, at the same time, thought, before I had myself any experience with regard to this subject, that there was a power in the ordinary law of the country which might be easily resorted to, in order to put down such mischievous projects and such injurious proceedings. I must say, that the experience I have had teaches me, that although the laws are themselves strong, and apparently efficient, yet that there is great difficulty in putting those laws into operation. With regard to one instance, with respect to which I have seen many observations made—and at various times violent speeches were made on various occasions—every one has seen in the newspapers the strongest excitement to violence, rebellion, and alarm of every kind; and it has naturally been observed, with regard to such language, that it was seditious, if not treasonable, and that the law ought to be put in force to suppress it. That was my own feeling likewise; but, when I came to any particular instance of such language, the obtaining of evidence and procuring a conviction was not a matter of so much facility as it appeared." [Hear, hear.] With respect to Ireland, the Ministers of the Crown have already explained to the House the course they have pursued and intend to pursue. They have explained that it is their determination to leave no effort untried for the maintenance of the legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland. [Cheers.] They have also stated that they would not be impelled by remonstrances, or by threats or by apprehensions, or by alarms, beyond their sense of duty, to resort to unusual measures of force; that they would, as far as possible, trust to the efficacy of the ordinary powers of the law, and would take every precaution against disturbing the public peace; that they would make every preparation for the maintenance of tranquillity; but that they would reserve to themselves the unbiased judgment as to the time and circumstances in which it might become necessary to appeal to force and arms. [Hear, hear.] I believe that the course they have pursued in that country has met with general approbation. [Hear, hear.] Sir, I regret to hear the Noble Lord censure the Government for the course they have pursued for the purpose of marking their disapprobation of the efforts that have been made to destroy the legislative union, by the exercise of the prerogatives vested in the Government. We have not asked for fresh powers; we have acted with forbearance in the application of those that we possess. We have shown our confidence in the powers of the law; we have not sought to irritate by a premature and hasty application of force; but we have felt it our duty, at the same time to advise the Crown to exercise its prerogative for the purpose of marking its disapprobation of the conduct of those who have joined the attempts which have been made to promote the repeal of the union. [Cheers.] But, I must say, that we have governed and are prepared to govern Ireland in a spirit of justice and impartiality. We have tried to govern it, not through the exclusive agency of a party, but we have tried to govern it upon the principles of justice and impartiality. [Cheers.] We know what has been in some respects the consequence of that. We know your taunts in some respects to be just, namely, that we have not conciliated the goodwill of one party, and we have lost the confidence of some of the other. We know we might have gained the confidence of one by governing exclusively through a party, but upon more enlarged and more comprehensive principles; and



the consequence has been that which was predicted and with which we are now taunted,—that if we had governed Ireland exclusively upon the principles of party, although we might have further exasperated one party, we should be possessed more exclusively of the confidence of the other. (Hear, hear.) Still I shall not despair, nor will those who are united with me in the Government, that when our intentions are manifested—when it is seen what is the course we have pursued, and that which we are pursuing—we do not despair that there will be a general confidence in the justice and impartiality of our government, and that the applause of rational men, attached to the interests of the country and desirous of its peace and tranquillity, will be the reward of the conduct which we have pursued and are determined to pursue. (Cheers.) Sir, I trust the house has not forgotten the position in which we found the Government when we were called to office; I trust that they have not forgotten the position of affairs in Canada, the position of affairs in India, the state of the finances, the unfinished war in China, and the state of our trade. I trust they have not forgotten all the difficulties which encompassed the Government at the time we assumed the direction of public affairs. I trust they will have seen the military force in Canada has been materially reduced. I trust that they will have seen that the cause of the differences with the United States—those at least which even threatened us with hostility—have been removed; that those feelings of hostility towards this country which prevailed in France have, I think, been greatly abated, that many of the causes of the differences which obstructed a good understanding with that country no longer exist, and that some of the disputed points between this country and France either have been adjusted, or are in a train to be satisfactorily adjusted; and I trust the house will not overlook, that though the present amount of the revenue may be insufficient to meet the whole of the demands upon it, yet that the great financial effort made by the country last year has laid the foundation, in my opinion at least, for equalizing the expenditure and the revenue. Trade is depressed, chiefly in my opinion, in consequence of the succession of those unfavourable seasons which, for years preceding the last, had of course a material effect upon the capital and industry of this country. The hostile tariff of America, no doubt, has contributed still further to increase our commercial difficulties. But still the measure taken in the course of last year and the improvement in the tariff will, I trust, lay the foundation for the repair of the evils that have been felt, and for the increase of the commercial prosperity of this country. [Hear, hear.] I trust the house will not consider that we have been unfaithful to the trust reposed in us; nor that we have forfeited any claim to that confidence which was given to us when we accepted office and entered upon the administration of affairs. We have exercised the trust, we may say that we have not forfeited the confidence which our friends were disposed to place in us when we came into office. [Cheers.] We will endeavour to retain that confidence; we will apply ourselves to the discharge of our public duty with a firm belief, that whatever may be the threatening aspect of public affairs in particular quarters, there is that energy and public spirit in this country that will enable us to surmount them all, and to place this country, in reference to its domestic affairs, and with reference to its foreign relations in that proud position which it ought to maintain. (Cheers.) Sir, if the noble lord had upon this occasion proposed any measure for testing the confidence of this house in her Majesty's Government, we feel, fully believe, that that confidence would not have been withheld from us; that no partial dissatisfaction—no partial disappointment—has alienated from us the approbation and confidence of our friends, and, feeling confident of this, we shall persevere in the discharge of our duty. (Cheers.)

After some discussion in which Lord Howick spoke at some length, and was followed by Mr. Hume, Sir B. Hall, Mr. Y. Smith, and others; another master spirit in the debate took up the subject as follows:

Lord PALMERSTON.—Sir, I wish before the debate closes to offer a few observations on what fell from the Right Hon. Baronet. He complained of my Noble Friend for the same reason as that which he urged on a former occasion against myself,—that if my Noble Friend felt distrust in the Government, he should not merely have made a speech, but moved a vote of censure or of want of confidence. And the Right Hon. Baronet observed, that doubtless my Noble Friend was deterred from so doing by a consciousness of what (he remarked) I had admitted,—that if the Government were led to resign their offices, an appeal to the country would result in their resuming them. Now, Sir, I did, undoubtedly, express such an opinion one night this session; but the Right Hon. Baronet, more conveniently than candidly, forgot to mention that on a subsequent occasion I recanted that confession (loud laughter and ironical cheers); and, made wiser by the experience of the intervening month, had cautioned Hon. Gentlemen opposite against a precipitate reliance on that opinion, warning them that I could by no means now be held responsible for its proving utterly erroneous. (Laughter.) But, Sir, the argument of the Right Hon. Baronet involved in the taunt to which I have adverted, is utterly irreconcilable with the principles of our constitution, and, indeed, with the conduct of our debates. It is, no doubt, convenient for a Government to say, that no opinions should be expressed against them unless accompanied by votes of censure,—certain not to be carried. It is very well for the Government to hold that doctrine, but an opposition which, though knowing it is weak in numbers, believes that it is strong in argument, is equally entitled to avail itself of that in which its strength lies (laughter from the Ministerial side)—namely, of debate, and is not bound to accept the challenge of its opponents to meet them upon that ground of division in which they happen to possess the advantage. The Right Hon. Baronet points to the debates which have taken place as a reason for the little progress which has been made in the course of legislation in this House. I certainly think this is a very tyrannical and overbearing complaint. (A laugh.) I will take the Irish Arms Bill, and I say that this complaint is most unjust as applied to the course pursued by Hon. Gentlemen on this side with regard to that measure. If delay has occurred in the case of that measure, it was the fault of the Government (hear, hear), who chose, without any necessity, and against the wish—as it has been stated—of their principal friends and supporters in Ireland (hear, hear, from the Opposition benches), to introduce a new detailed measure, containing various fresh enacting clauses, instead of contenting themselves with simply proposing a continuation of the existing law. (Hear, hear.) But I contend that the little progress which has been made in the legislative business of the country is not attributable to the debates which have taken place in this House. In the first place, when we are told of the frequent adjournment of debates, we must also bear in mind the number of days during the session when, from the non-attendance of those whom the Government might have invited to be present, no House has been made (hear, hear); and we must also recollect that on many occasions the House has adjourned at a very early period of the evening. (Hear, hear.) I hold in my hand a list of the days in every month of the session on which the House has adjourned at an early hour; and when, therefore, if Government had wished it, progress might have been made with their measures. But not only am I prepared to contend that the length to which debates have been carried is perfectly justifiable, in consequence of the imperfect and objectionable nature of the measures which have been introduced,

but this is not the only cause of the scant return which the Government will have to make at the end of the session of the measures which have passed into law. The failure of some of the most important measures the Government have introduced has been owing—not to any discussions in this House, but to the resistance and opposition which they have experienced out of doors (hear, hear), from those classes in the country whose interests they would have affected. Take the great measure relating to education—a most important measure, and one which I deeply regret should have been prevented, by any circumstances, from being passed into a law in the course of the present session. (Hear.) But was the failure of that measure owing to the prolongation of the debates in this House? (Hear, hear.) No; it was owing to the strong resistance and opposition with which it was met by many classes of the community; and so unable does the Government appear to have been to form an estimate of the feelings of these large bodies of persons on the subject of the bill, that after having postponed the measure, and, as they imagined, relieved it from all objectionable clauses, they found their amended bill was objected to almost as strongly as the original bill (hear), and in consequence of its imperfections they have been compelled to abandon this important measure. I say, then, that it is unfair to charge Hon. Gentlemen on this side the House, who have only discharged their duty, with impeding the progress of these measures, which the Government, although they admit their importance, have shown their inability to carry into law. The Right Hon. Baronet opposite, in going through the speech of my Noble Friend, defended himself against the charge of not having improved the financial position of the country since he has succeeded to office. It will be remembered that one of the great charges which the present Government made against us, when they were in opposition, was founded upon our financial deficiency. They held it to be quite impossible that any Government, feeling the responsibility of its duties, could carry on the affairs of the country, and yet allow such a deficiency to exist. We had a deficiency no doubt; very sorry for it we were. (Laughter from the Ministerial benches.) It was stated by the Hon. Gentlemen opposite, then in opposition, that that deficiency arose from the extensive operations we were carrying on in China and in India, and from the necessity of maintaining a large force in Canada. That was their allegation; and I beg that the House will bear it in remembrance. They said,—"You carry on these wars in every part of the world with a peace establishment. No wonder you have a deficiency." But what is the state of affairs under the management of the present Government? Those wars have ceased. The Chinese war has been crowned with complete success, notwithstanding all the predictions of Hon. Gentlemen opposite. (Cheers from the Opposition benches.) When they were telling us that no man could foresee the termination of the war, our plenipotentiary was—about that very time—dictating the terms of a satisfactory peace. (Cheers.) That war has ceased; but is this all? It has brought you (addressing Ministers) a good round sum of money. (Laughter.) You have got from China about £1,000,000 sterling during the year ending in April last, as the result of that war, and therefore, as far as the Chinese war is concerned, though there might be a deficiency while we were in office, such is not the case with you. (Hear, hear.) It is admitted that the war in India is not an element to be taken into consideration, because it involves no charge upon the revenues of this country; and it is only in the event of the East India Company raising a loan, and calling upon the Government to guarantee it, that this war can affect the national finances. In Canada, also, there is no longer any necessity for the retention of the numerous forces which were maintained in that colony when we quitted office; but still her Majesty's present Ministers find a deficiency—a deficiency, I believe, rather greater than that which existed when we left office. I won't dispute about trifles (a laugh); but the deficiency is admitted. But Her Majesty's present advisers have got the £1,000,000 of money from China, which we had not (hear, hear), and they have also got their income-tax (renewed cries of hear), which we had not; and therefore, adding to their deficiency the money received from China on the one hand, and the produce of the income-tax on the other, the deficiency upon the revenue is too appalling for me to mention. (Hear, hear, from the Opposition, and laughter from the Ministerial benches.)—If then it is the duty of a Government to provide that its revenue shall be equal to its expenditure, the present Administration must admit that, owing either to their fault or misfortunes, they have not discharged that duty. [Hear, hear.] "But," says the right hon. baronet, "this is attributable to the commercial embarrassments of the country, and those commercial embarrassments are owing to the hostile tariffs adopted by other states." Now, what was it that led to the termination of our political existence? Was it not the proposal of measures which, in our opinion—and I think by the general acknowledgment of men of all parties in the country—were calculated to extend our commerce, and to relieve us from those financial difficulties in which we are now involved? [Hear, hear.] If the present Government had adopted the measures we proposed with respect to the articles of corn, and sugar, and timber, my belief is, that instead of a diminished they would have had a progressively increasing revenue. But when hon. gentlemen opposite assert that the tariffs adopted by other states have occasioned the distress in which our commerce is involved, I must beg to ask them—"Who caused the adoption of those tariffs?" The right hon. baronet has mentioned the tariff of the United States, but he has forgotten five or six other tariffs which, since his Government came into power, have been rendered more unfavourable than they before were to British commerce. Was it not natural that, when foreigners saw coming into power a party who support the principle of domestic protection, whose war-cry as a party has almost invariably been "prohibition," and who turned out their predecessors specifically upon the ground that they wished to break down the monopolies of the country—was it surprising, under such circumstances, that foreign Governments should raise the amount of their duties upon British commodities? [Hear, hear.] I must confess, I think it was not very discreet on the part of the Government to announce, in the speech from the throne at the commencement of the last session, that they were engaged in negotiations with several powers, with a view to effect an alteration of the tariffs, for that announcement excited expectations which, unhappily, have not been realized. [Hear.] At the same time, I have no doubt that, when the Government made this announcement, they thought nothing was so easy as to obtain anything they asked from any foreign power. [A laugh.] So much has been said upon the internal state of this country, and especially upon that most important subject, the state of Ireland, that I will confine what I have to say on that point to one remark which fell from the right hon. baronet opposite. He touched upon the dismissal of the magistrates for having attended repeal meetings, and defended the course which the Government have adopted. Now I must confess that I have never heard any defence, (I don't allude particularly to the speech of the right hon. baronet to-night, but to the defence which has been forward by the Government on every occasion on which this question has been mooted)—I never heard a defence which I thought more entirely destitute of a solid and just foundation. [Hear.] It has been said—"the object of repeal was one to which the Government had declared their opposition—one which had been discountenanced by the principa,



members on both sides of the house; and the Government were therefore justified in withdrawing their confidence from any official personage who might sanction the repeal agitation." It has been argued in another place, "How could we allow individuals to remain in the commission of the peace who had attended meetings which might lead to illegal acts, and who might be called upon as magistrates to suppress those movements of which they had themselves been the promoters?" I will admit the possibility of the result: but I deny the logic of the arguments. I hold first that if an object is legal, one which may be accomplished by a law which Parliament can consider and debate upon, and may carry into effect if it will, it is an unsound doctrine that the advocacy such an object is a crime in a magistrate, merely because the executive Government may entertain a different opinion, and think that such a measure, if carried, would be destructive even to the existence of the empire. A magistrate is entitled to entertain his own individual opinion; and if he does not express that opinion in a manner inconsistent with the law, it is an abuse to deprive him of his commission merely because he advocates a certain object. But it is said, "This magistrate might have been called upon in the performance of his duty to suppress illegal acts, which had arisen from the proceedings at these repeal meetings." But the Lord Chancellor of Ireland himself asserts that these meetings are not illegal. My noble friend has quoted several legal opinions, in which doubt is expressed as to whether some of these meetings are not open to legal objections; but the Lord Chancellor of Ireland says he does not admit them to be illegal. There was, then, no ground for interference with the magistrates who have been dismissed, so far as these meetings were concerned. Now a word or two on the foreign relations of the country. Sir, a wise Government in its home policy considers the reasonable wants of the people; in its foreign policy, is prepared to resist the unjust demands and the unreasonable views of foreign powers. The present Government inverts this method; it is all resistance at home, all concession abroad. [Loud cheers.] Sir, my noble friend adverted to one point relative to the affairs of Scinde, but the right hon. baronet, with his usual dexterity in Parliamentary fencing, parried the thrust, and replied by adverting to something totally inapplicable. The complaint of my noble friend was, that there was a war going on in Scinde of which we have had knowledge for some months, and yet the Government have not yet told Parliament whether they think the war just or unjust, whether they are prepared to sanction or disapprove the conduct of their Governor-General in relation to it. That was the complaint of my noble friend. ["Hear, hear," from Lord J. Russell.] My noble friend did not say what they should have done, he spoke of what the Government had done; but the right hon. baronet, by way of answer, said, "You could not expect the papers sooner, they will be ready by Monday. Still, our instructions cannot be produced; we cannot tell what is going to be done." But, sir, my noble friend did not ask what was going to be done; his complaint was, as to what had been done, he asked whether the Government were of opinion that the steps taken with regard to the Amerees were just or unjust? To that question no answer has been given [hear, hear:] no answer will be given. [Cheers.] Of all the governments that have ruled this country for a long time, we were the more ready to impart diplomatic information. Sir, with regard to Scinde, there is one most important point, most important because the policy that has been adopted was condemned by the Governor-General when he attacked our course of policy—most important because it must be in every one's recollection that this very Governor-General declared some time ago that the natural boundary of our Indian empire was the Sutlej, and yet he next month is anxious to annex to our territories a country even beyond the Indus—most important because it is remarkable that the Governor-General, who condemned the measures which were undertaken by us against a danger which was known to all the world, and not for the purpose of permanently annexing any territory to England, but only with a view of placing our Indian possessions in a position of safety—I mean the measures with respect to Afghanistan—because it is most remarkable, I say, that the Governor-General, who condemned that policy, should proceed to annex permanently to the British dominions in India a territory which, up to that time, had belonged to a people who were our friends. I do not say whether there may be, or may not be, reasons for Lord Ellenborough's conduct, but I do say that such conduct is remarkable on the part of an individual who condemned us on those grounds, and I think an explanation of it is due to the House. Sir, in other parts of the world the position of affairs is not very consolatory to those who think it is the duty of a Government to pay attention to the interests of their country. With regard to Turkey, if I can find an opportunity, I intend to bring that question before the House, and shall endeavour to elicit some expression of opinion from the Government; but as at present advised it appears to me that whereas we induced Russia by our representations to forego all claim to interfere in the concerns of the Turkish empire, recent events seem to show that an interference on the part of Russia has taken place in the internal affairs of Turkey, which it remains to be proved is founded on just grounds. Sir, the independence of Turkey is one point which, with reference to the balance of power in Europe, it is necessary for a Government of this country to watch over. Sir, the independence of Spain—(loud cries of "hear, hear,") is of great importance to the political and commercial relations of this country. We then had laid the foundations of national independence; we had placed that independence on real foundations. What has lately taken place in that country? I only judge by those means of information which are open to all; therefore, I will not state what I think will be the consequences; but I think I may say that a military revolution has taken place in Spain, directed to the subversion of the Regent, who had been constitutionally appointed by the Cortes of Spain. Sir, all Europe believes that revolution to have been brought about by instigations and money coming from Paris. This at any rate is not concealed by the French newspapers—that when the account came of the recent events, the Minister for Foreign Affairs rushed to the palace of Queen Christina to congratulate her on the triumph which she and France had obtained. We were told also how a French prince attended on that occasion, and with the utmost affability conversed in Spanish to those about him! Hon. gentlemen opposite will tell us whether we are to see a French prince seated on the Spanish throne, and whether that which has been the policy of England for centuries shall be destroyed by the measures which have been allowed to be taken by the supineness and want of energy and decision of the British Government!—[Cheers.] The Right Hon. Baronet may truly say that when he came into power he found a general unanimity—all classes combined—to promote education, but that he has now succeeded in raising a flame of jealousy between the sects which seems to render any combination for the purpose of education almost hopeless. He found the principality of Wales in tranquillity—I hope he will restore it to tranquillity. He found, he says, a great disaster in Afghanistan, and when my noble friend spoke of our foreign affairs he forgot (the Right Hon. Baronet said) Afghanistan and the greatest disaster that had ever befallen the British arms. But, Sir, the Right Hon. Baronet forgets that that disaster was confined to Cabul, (hear, hear,) and that our force at Candahar was not touched. I think, if I am not mistaken, I have read that the general who commanded at

Candahar said he would have undertaken to restore affairs at Cabul if he had been permitted to march thither. Let it be admitted, then, that we sustained a great disaster in a part of Afghanistan, but I say that the result showed that our Governor-General had made the preparations which retrieved that disaster (ironical cheering); and I think I may say without reflecting on those that are gone, that if Sir R. Sale, or General Pollock, or General England, or General Nott, or Sir C. Napier, had been at Cabul when the disturbances broke out, that disaster would not have happened. (Loud cheers.) Sir, I will not admit that the incident does show that the general system of our policy in regard to that great undertaking has been attended with failures, but the Right Hon. Baronet might have said that whereas we were triumphant in arms in that country, he withdrew from it, leaving it, as the Governor-General expressed himself, to the punishment of its own anarchy. Now, I do not exactly know what right the Governor-General had to leave a country to the punishment of an anarchy of his own creating, but he at least, with whatever right, has annexed to the British dominions a very considerable territory belonging to parties who were heretofore our allies. The Right Hon. Baronet says the Government has substituted a good understanding with France for the irritation that existed when we retired. Undoubtedly there was a temporary irritation, arising from our having carried into effect measures which we thought essential in order to prevent the existence of an undue and possibly hostile influence of France in Syria and Egypt. The Right Hon. Baronet has certainly allayed that irritation by surrendering to France every British interest in Spain. (Hear, hear.) Then came the affair of Barcelona. No man in Europe doubts that the French Consul took a part on that occasion which would have justified the Spanish Government in withdrawing his *exequatur*, and putting an end to his functions; but Her Majesty's Ministers counselled the Regent to do no such thing, but rather to temporize and to submit. The only power in Europe to which the Regent had to look was England. It was only from the moral support of England he could look for any success; that support has not been given him, and the consequence is he has fallen. (Hear.) I say then it appears to me that there is nothing in the position of the present Government, as contrasted with the state in which they stood when they came into power two years ago, that can be a source of any congratulation to them. (Hear.) They were brought into power by a greater acclamation of public opinion than perhaps has ever yet, or at least often, greeted the accession to office of any Government. (Cheers and counter cheers.) But if I ask them if they still retain the personal confidence of those who give them their political support (cheers and counter cheers)!—if I ask them if they retain the confidence of those portions of the people of this country by whose votes at elections that majority was returned which placed the present Government in power!—if I ask them whether in public or in private they retain the good word of those who are their political adherents!—they must confess that in that respect their condition is remarkably changed. (Cheers.) Sir, I really almost feel, that common generosity ought to prevent us from pressing too hard upon a fallen foe. (Cheers and a laugh.) It is not, therefore, so much the condition of the country which inspires me with uneasiness and alarm as the condition of the Government itself. It is, because I see a Government who evidently are disunited in their own opinions, who have no views of any measure calculated to meet the difficulties and the exigencies of affairs, and who are now preparing to let a long session of Parliament draw to its close without giving even the most distant intimations that between this and the next meeting of Parliament they should be able to devise or intend to consider any measures calculated to appease and soften the discontents of the country; therefore, it is, that I look upon the present as a most alarming state of things. Anybody who has been in office must know that Governments are very reluctant, and properly so, to announce beforehand, especially at a great interval of time, measures they may not have matured, and which have bearings of the utmost national importance, and therefore I am willing to hope that the meagreness of the statements we have heard from the Government may not be the real indication of the meagreness of their intentions. But I do entreat them to turn their most anxious and serious thoughts to these subjects; I do entreat them not to let Parliament separate without saying something on which at least better expectations for the future may be founded; and I will say, with those who have already spoken on this side of the house, that if they will take a bold course of policy—not bold in the way of action, but of conciliation (hear, hear)—if they will do that—if they will look fairly in the face the difficulties with which we are surrounded—if they will fairly, impartially, and with kind intentions, examine the various grievances, a sense of which has led to the present disquieted state of mind in Ireland, I am quite satisfied, first of all, they will find that their supporters will not resist the measures they may be induced to propose, at least not so great a body of them as would be sufficient to prevent them from acting—the example of which took place on the tariff ought to inspire them with confidence—(a laugh); but, at all events, of this they may be sure—if they bring forward such measures as Government ought to propose in the present critical state of public affairs, it not on that side, at least on this, they will receive such support as will enable them to do their duty, and to restore the country to that state of tranquillity in which they received it two years ago. (Loud cheers.)

LORD STANLEY.—Sir, I confess that with whatever satisfaction I may have listened to the speech of the Noble Lord, seeing the number of wasted days I cannot but be of opinion that the public may somewhat think the business of the country has not been very materially advanced or the time of the house very valuably occupied by the course which has been taken to-night. (Hear.) I do not complain of the course which the Noble Lord has pursued—prudent as no doubt it has been—in making such a statement and in taking such a course as to render it impossible that the sense of the house should be taken on any practical question. But the Noble Lord tells us that the measures of the Government introduced this session were badly framed, and that it is on that account, and not on account of any obstruction, that so little business has been done. The Noble Lord says that the County Courts Bill was so badly framed, that we were obliged to abandon it. I was not aware that the bill was ever given up by the Government (hear), but it happens to be one which has never had the opportunity of having its merits discussed, inasmuch as that when my right Hon. friend introduced it it was at the commencement of the session—at a time when there were very protracted debates in this House. It may be that more members desired to utter their opinions than there used to be, or it may be that we cannot make the day longer than 24 hours, or induce people to devote more than 18 of those hours to assiduous labour. (Hear, hear.) But, from whatever cause, the County Court Bill has not received the full discussion of its merits, and notwithstanding all that vast majority in this house of which the Noble Lord has spoken, my right Hon. friend has certainly never had the opportunity of taking the second reading of the bill. Yet the Noble Lord tells us that the bad construction of our measures is the reason why we have not been able to pass them. The Noble Lord passed on to the education question. I admit that I deeply regret that the endeavour of Her Majesty's Government to heal religious animosities should have not been able to press forward a measure



which the Noble Lord the member for London admitted he agreed to with one exception. For it was on one single point that the Noble Lord disagreed with the measure—the point embodied in his resolutions (hear)—I mean the appointment of masters in the schools. (An ironical cheer.) Hon. Gentlemen opposite may imply by that cheer that the difference was a most important one, but it was still a single point at issue.

Lord J. RUSSELL.—There was also the question of the constitution of the boards of trustees. (Hear.)

Lord STANLEY.—If I remember rightly the noble lord in the first instance intimated an opinion as to the boards of trustees, and in the main the principles recommended by the noble lord had been, before the proposition was made, practically adopted by my right hon. friend. (Hear, hear.) However, I will not go into the details of that measure. I deeply regret that those details were not discussed in this house with that temper and fairness with which the measure was first received here, and which I believe, if not for the strong pressure of popular feeling without, however excited, would have been so discussed, and fairly discussed. I believe also, that if the measure had been so discussed, it was of such deep importance to the best interest of the country that it would have been adopted. The noble lord also talks of our financial deficiency. The noble lord has an easy mode of passing over the proceedings of his own Government. Says he, "We had a deficiency, and we were very sorry for it." (A laugh.) Yes, but being very sorry for it is not precisely the mode to deal with it. By this system we were left with something like 7,000,000/ of accumulated deficiencies by the energetic policy of the noble lord. All he can say is, that he is sorry for it (a laugh); but then he adds, "Only see what we would have done with our measures respecting corn, timber, and sugar." The house and the country, however, it seems, were not exactly of the same opinion. (Hear, hear.) Sir, this energy of the late Government at the close of their existence does, I confess, appear to me somewhat too much like the galvanic energy that is seen sometimes in the last moments of a dying person. (Laughter.) The noble lord then goes on to tell us that the present Government have at the end of two years increased the deficiency. Now, when the noble lord complains of a want of energy in the present Government, he surely is hardly prepared to say, that the step taken by the Government on their accession to office, for the purpose of putting an end to the financial difficulties left by their predecessors, was not one of the boldest and most straightforward measures of finance ever resorted to, especially when it was a measure known to be so unpopular in itself. (Hear, hear.) I will say, Sir, there never was a bolder attempt to remedy the disordered finances of a country than the income-tax proposed by the present Government. (Hear, hear.) And, too, the noble lord, when telling us of our deficiency, had not taken into account the half-year's income-tax that was not collected when he made his calculation. "But," says the noble lord, "we left you not only a deficiency, but also some wars on hand." Yes, you did, and a very pleasant position those wars were in. (Hear, hear,) and a laugh.) Does the noble lord think he left us in a satisfactory state with regard to the war in India? The noble lord asked with some complacency whether my noble friend (Sir R. Peel) had not availed himself of the preparations which the preceding Government had made in India? I admit we did, but the noble lord had much underrated the difficulties in which we were placed with respect to Afghanistan, and touched very lightly upon what he was pleased to call the "incident of Cabul." (A laugh.) I believe the noble lord considered the "incident" a more serious matter at one time than, now that it is overcome, he is likely to admit. (Hear, hear.) The noble lord said, "I do not blame you because in the Afghan war you availed yourselves of the skilful means and preparations provided by us." The means and preparations provided by you! You said, that notwithstanding the "incident" you were prepared with means to set matters right again; yes, all as right as you were prepared to set the finances. ("Hear," and a laugh.) The "incident," however, was such as to induce Lord Auckland to abandon the enterprise, and the only preparation made was a corps of reserve held in readiness to cover the retreat of the troops when they were about to abandon the country in their ill-fated condition. (Hear, hear.) For months after Lord Ellenborough's arrival in India, the army was in such a state in Afghanistan as not to be able to move backward or forward, but was compelled to remain in a position of inactivity and indolence. Was our Candahar force—I do not mean to say anything against the army, to whom no blame could attach—but was our Candahar force in an efficient condition to proceed to Cabul?

Is it asserted that it was? I'll call a witness. I'll call Sir William Nott. In a letter dated April, 1842, that gentleman says that "had he been re-inforced with a single regiment of cavalry he felt convinced he should have been able to repress all the rebellious feeling in Candahar; and that if the assistance of a few troops were afforded him he would be enabled to march to Ghuznee and Cabul; but, though six months had elapsed since the outbreak in Candahar, no aid of any kind had been sent to him; and he was obliged still to confine himself to that point and its vicinity." Such was the statement made by Sir W. Nott. Then, with regard to China. The noble lord had said that he did not blame the present Government with respect to the course which had been pursued in China; and added that notwithstanding the taunts which had been levelled at the late Government for not adopting more vigorous measures, at the very time those taunts were used the plenipotentiary was dictating the terms of peace to the Chinese Government. The noble lord accuses us for having availed ourselves of the services of that Plenipotentiary. We did so, and I am glad of it. I am glad my right hon. friend availed himself of the services of one so discreet and able to conduct the business in China, and that no feeling of party or rivalry interfered with his carrying it out successfully. [Cheers.] The noble lord had said the success in China was owing to our having followed the plan of the preceding Government. It was not achieved alone by that means, but by adding largely to the military and naval force in China. The noble lord and those on his side talk a great deal more of free trade principles than they act upon; and I will fearlessly say, that they never, during their administrative existence, brought forward, and much less carried, any measure of commercial relaxation so large as that which my right hon. friend so successfully carried through in the first year of his government. [Loud cheers.] The noble lord says that our war cry is protection. So far from protection being our war cry we have carried out the principles of removing restrictions as far as we can, but we do so with due caution, and yet at the same time have carried out the principle to a greater extent than they ever carried or attempted to carry it. [Cheers.] I very deeply regret the secession from the Church of Scotland of a very large number of able, pious, and learned ministers. [Hear, hear.] I think it is a great misfortune, not to Scotland only, but on account of the effect it has upon the principle of establishments generally. [Hear, hear.] But when the noble lord says that the Government interfered at an improper period, I say that the Government felt it their duty not to interpose to reconcile irreconcilable differences,—not to interfere so long as the church stood in a position in which she repudiated the authority of the law [hear, hear;]

but as soon as the church placed herself in due submission to the law, then, and not till then, it was the duty of the Government to endeavour by legislative measures to solve the difficulty and heal the dissension which had so long existed in that church. [Hear.] And whatever the result of that measure may be I do not regret either having postponed it so long as we did, nor having brought it forward at the earliest period it was possible to make such an attempt consistent with our duty. I do not hesitate for one, and on the part of the Government, to say that we witnessed with pain the recent events in Spain and the fall of Espartero, whose talents, abilities, and judgment had earned for him a high and deserved reputation. (Hear, hear.) When the Noble Lord tells me that from the want of energy of this country Espartero has fallen and the independence of Spain is gone, the Noble Lord seems to have a strange opinion of the independence of a foreign country. The Noble Lord brings forward some questions of court etiquette, in which he says we weakened Espartero's authority by sending him some advice on court etiquette, and thereby lowered him in the estimation of the people. But can the Noble Lord assert, that so far as was consistent with the interests of a friendly country, every support—every moral support which the Court of England could give to the Government of Spain, has not been fairly, frankly, and freely given? [Hear, hear.] The Noble Lord sent to the Court of Spain a Minister, in whom he had full confidence, to whom he stated his desire to maintain the existing state of things, but did we alter that arrangement? Did we recal Mr. Aston? Did we not, as a mark of the intention of the British Government to adhere to these friendly relations established with the Government of Spain, continue at that Court a Minister selected by the Noble Lord? [Hear.] "But," says the Noble Lord, "your want of energy destroyed the independence of Spain." I take it that the independence of Spain or of any other country is not promoted by maintaining this or that party in the country by the aid or assistance of foreign power, and that that Government which cannot stand by itself—which requires that interference of British troops which the Noble Lord is ready to give to uphold Spanish independence, is not in a condition which can be called an independent country. [Hear, hear.] A Government upheld by a foreign force can hardly be said to be independent. [Hear, hear.] I am sorry to say anything to damp the aspiring hopes or youthful fancies of the Noble Lord; but rumours of discords and dissensions appear to have reached him, and to have raised his hopes even to their present moderate height. I am unaware of any foundation for such hopes. If he bases them on dissensions in the cabinet, I am afraid I cannot hold out to him any prospect of that change being presented which he told the house some time ago the country would have rejected. (Cheers and laughter.) I believe that by pursuing a straightforward course—(ironical cheers from the Opposition re-echoed by loud Ministerial cheers)—not by pretending to believe that the evils of the country are at once to be remedied by some great clap-net measure, to be introduced or not as the case might be (cheers), and only intended to make a noise for a time and never to be brought into operation: but by a steady and persevering and assiduous attention to the interests of the country, by neglecting no opportunity of obtaining small advantages (a laugh)—I mean small advantages in the way of legislation, and not small in respect of useful measures, though those measures might not be so showy as some which hon. gentlemen opposite might suggest—I do believe, I say, that possessing, as I trust we do, the confidence of this country, and steering our own steady and determined course, we shall be enabled to administer the affairs of the country, even to the disappointment of the new-raised-hopes of the Noble Lord. (Cheers and laughter.)

A few words of observation were then made by Mr. Labouchere, and others; after which the order of the day was read, and the Committee was postponed till Monday, July 31.

#### THE ASHBURTON TREATY.

House of Commons, Aug. 4.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER said he wished to know from the right hon. gentleman, the President of the Board of Trade, whether, under the Ashburton treaty, and the 25th clause of the Customs Duty Bill, it was intended to admit the agricultural produce of the State of Maine into this country, at the colonial duty. If such were the case, he wished to know what security would be given that the produce of the other states of America would not find its way into England in the same way?

Mr. GLADSTONE said that he would endeavour to confine himself within the legitimate limits of an answer; at the same time he would endeavour fully to explain the meaning of those articles of treaty to which the hon. member had referred. As far as he understood the first part of his hon. friend's question, it was whether by a clause of the Customs Bill, which was intended to give effect to the third article of the treaty of Washington, the produce of the State of Maine would be forwarded through the colony of New Brunswick to this country at the colonial duty? That clause had only reference to that part of Maine, which was now acknowledged to belong to this country; the part of that territory which had formerly been known by the name of the "disputed territory," and which had by the late division fallen to the United States, did not come within the operation of the duty. In answer to the second question of his hon. friend, he would endeavour to explain the precise position in which they stood with respect to the verification of the origin of produce to be admitted into this country. By the third article of the treaty of Washington, and the clause of the Customs Act, referred to by the hon. gentleman, power was given for demanding a verification of origin in all cases of goods imported into this country from the British Colonies, excepting in those imported from the territories of the East India Company, which at present he would put out of view. The produce of that part of Maine was almost exclusively timber.

#### Latest Intelligence.

The Charivari announces that MM. Lamennais and Lamartine were each preparing an appeal to France in favour of Ireland.

The domestic news of France is of little interest. The Belle Poule, with Prince de Joinville and his Brazilian bride on board, arrived at Brest on the 15th ult., a previous report to that effect having been false. The vessel had been detained by contrary winds. The session of the Chambers closed on the 24th ult., when the royal decree of prorogation was read. Several of the ministers, and one hundred of the deputies were present. They were not expected to re-assemble until the 9th January.

A melancholy event occurred a few days back in the English waters,—the loss of the Pegasus, a steamer, which sailed between Leith and Hull. She struck on the Goldstone Rock, near Holy Island, and some two or three miles from the Great Fern Lights. Out of the crew and passengers, which numbered between fifty and sixty persons, only six have been saved,—namely, two passengers, the mate, the engineer, the carpenter, and one of the firemen.

The return of the noted member of the Anti-Corn-Law League, Mr. Bright as member for Durham, is an event of the first importance. It has been re-



ceived with shouts of acclamation by the free traders, and its influence will be felt in the walls of Parliament as well as in the country. There is no disguising the fact, that the League has been "carrying all before it" of late in the agricultural, not less than in the manufacturing districts, and the last and greatest influence of all—electoral influence—will, from this time forward, make itself felt in every single election; and when a dissolution of Parliament takes place, with potent effect, amongst constituencies which have been inoculated recently with free trade theories.

The following Clause of a Bill, which has just been issued by the Customs, is of great importance to American merchants trading with Great Britain. The belief here is, that the imports will not be confined to the State of Maine, but the United States generally. The river St. John will be considered as a free river, and consequently there will be a mutual understanding to introduce the produce and manufactures of the United States and Great Britain upon a perfect system of Free Trade:—

"And whereas a Treaty has been concluded between Her Majesty and the United States of America, dated the ninth day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, whereby it is stipulated, that all the produce of the forest, in lumber, timber, timber-boards, staves or shingles, or of agriculture, nothing manufactured, grown on any of those parts of the State of Maine watered by the River Saint John or by its tributaries, of which fact reasonable evidence shall, if required, be produced, shall have free access into and through the said River and its said tributaries, having their source within the State of Maine, to and from the seaport at the mouth of the River Saint John, and to and round the falls of the said River, either by boats, rafts, or other conveyance, that when within the province of New Brunswick the said produce shall be dealt with as if it were the produce of the said province; and, whereas it is the intention of the high contracting parties to the said Treaty, that the aforesaid produce should be dealt with as if it were the produce of the province of New Brunswick; be it therefore enacted, that the produce in the said recited Treaty and hereinbefore described, shall, so far as regards all laws relating to Duties, Navigation and Customs in force in the United Kingdom or in any of Her Majesty's dominions, be deemed and taken to be and be dealt with as the produce of the province of New Brunswick: provided nevertheless, that in all cases in which declarations and certificates of production or origin, and certificates of clearance, would be required in respect of such produce, if it were the produce of New Brunswick, similar declarations and certificates shall be required in respect of such produce, and shall state the same to be the produce of those parts of the State of Maine which are watered by the River St. John or its tributaries."

**THE OVERLAND MAIL.**—The news by the Overland Mail, which has arrived unusually early this month, possesses no striking feature. In Scinde matters are approaching a pacific settlement, and Sir Charles Napier has shown that his talent as a general is only excelled by his tact as a negotiator. With the chiefs he is said to have made terms, which will supersede the necessity of further fighting—so that the speedy settlement of the country may be looked for. Death had swept away some of the British officers by fever, and Sir Charles himself had experienced an attack, from which, however, he speedily recovered. From other parts of India, there is nothing of interest to communicate.

The news from China is more than usually meagre. No advance appears to have been made with the commercial treaty. Sir Henry Pottinger, according to some of the accounts, had left for the north, in order to press it on the Chinese authorities.

Southampton is finally fixed upon as the starting point of the steamers carrying West Indian and South American mails.

The trials of such of Rebecca's daughters as are in custody have been removed by *certiorari* from Carmarthen to the Court of Queen's Bench.

A new literary association, called the British and Foreign Institute, has been established in London. Mr. J. S. Buckingham is to be the resident director.

It is now generally stated, says *The Globe*, echoed by *The Times*, that the Houses of Parliament will not be prorogued until the last week in August.

The capabilities of a new iron steamer on the Thames, called "The Prince of Wales," are said to be 17 miles an hour.

Three thousand pounds and upwards were received at the Italian Opera, on Thursday night week, on the occasion of her Majesty's first state visit to that theatre.

Mr. Henry Wallack has become the new lessee of Covent Garden Theatre, which will be opened under his management in September next.

Mr. Bunn having finally settled with the Committee of Drury Lane Theatre, is busily engaged in making the necessary preparations for opening that establishment under his direction.

The Spectator states that Sir Robert Peel, and his "youthful friend," Lord Stanley, though carrying it so smoothly in public, are at daggers drawing behind the scenes.

The celebrated composer Dr. Spohr, and the renowned bass singer, Herr Standigl, embarked on Saturday week, from the Brunswick Pier, Blackwall, on board the Wilberforce, for Antwerp.

Earl Grey continues convalescent, and takes daily airings in the park, and, in a few days, it is hoped he will be sufficiently recovered to bear the fatigue of a journey to Howick Hall.

The property of the Duke of Sussex, lately sold by auction, realized £37,643 9s. 11d. The pipes, tobacco, and cigars brought £3,617 9s. 6d.; the clocks and watches £1,994 5s.

The Times asserts that a person named Loose has proposed the formation of an iron balloon of 2,122 tons weight, forming an entire shell of wrought iron, which, having the air exhausted from it, would rise from the earth with the rapidity of an arrow!

A few days since, the under-ostler of the White Hart Hotel, at Windsor, found a bag containing nearly 1000 sovereigns. The man, through whose honesty the property was returned safe into the hands of the owner, was rewarded with 20s.!

The company established to carry out Mr. Ingold's invention of the manufacture of wheels and pinions of clocks and watches intend to proceed, with a capital of £250,000, in shares of £25 each, under an exclusive license from the trustees.

Messrs. Longman, Brown, and Co., have purchased the copyright of the Prize Cartoons, and have made arrangements for their immediate publication in a style of execution suitable to their character and importance.

An order from the Treasury has been issued that every person holding a situation connected with the revenue, and who may have subscribed to or have be-

come a member of the repeal association, must immediately withdraw his subscription and name on pain of instant dismissal.

There has been an extraordinary demand for copies of Dr. Pusey's sermons. Upwards of 3,000 copies have been sent to Ireland. Two editions of 6,000 each have been printed; and a third edition, it is expected, is just about to issue.

Thomas Hart, beerseller, Halliwell, christened his twenty-ninth child on Wednesday. Of that number twenty-five are still alive.

The Glasgow underwriters will suffer very severely by the loss of the Columbia steamer which was principally insured at that city. The amount is stated at upwards of £40,000 underwritten by several of the most influential brokers.

The Oxford Herald, which has lately changed hands, having given offence to the Puseyites (whose organ it was under the old proprietorship), they have determined on starting a paper in opposition, to come out early in next term; the management, editorship, &c., will be completely under the control of the tractarians.

When Lord Spencer appeared in the church at Derby, on Sunday week, the sexton mistook him for a person in humble station, and, accordingly, showed his lordship into one of the free seats. Some of the congregation, on hearing the fact, felt quite distressed. Probably his lordship was amused at the mistake, and thought nothing about it.

The Standard states that the Queen has ordered £30,000 to be paid to the Earl of Haddington out of the Crown land revenues, as compensation for the right which he resigns to the Hereditary Keepership of Holyrood Park. The Park is to be annexed to the Crown lands. The Earl had waived pecuniary compensation.

The keeper of an eating-house in Hull states, that it is no uncommon thing for as many as twenty labourers to dine at his house daily for one penny each, that is, for a halfpenny worth of milk and a halfpenny worth of bread. The same men, when employment was plentiful, he said, used to pay sevenpence each for their dinner.

On Wednesday the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Saxe Gotha, Princess Clementine, and other distinguished personages now on a visit to her Majesty, honoured the Thames Tunnel with a visit. Having proceeded through such a work as never a queen had before traversed, the royal party returned, and, as they re-ascended, "God save the Queen!" was struck up, and loud and cheerfully joined in by the assembled concourse. On arriving at the entrance room, her Majesty was pleased to express her gratification of having witnessed the completion of the tunnel, and her regret that Sir I. Brunel was not present.

The Rev. Theobald Mathew, on account of a dispensation from the Pope to move about according to inclination, unrestricted by episcopal interference or control, arrived in Manchester last week. He has been occupied upwards of nine hours a day in administering the pledge of total abstinence. Up to Saturday evening 13,000 persons took the pledge. On Sunday it was administered to 30,000, and on Monday and Tuesday to 32,000, making in all a total of 80,000 pledged teetotallers in Manchester. Of these there are 4500 infants, 3000 of whom belong to the St. Patrick's district, a part of Manchester principally inhabited by the Irish. During his recent visit to Liverpool, the Rev. Theobald Mathew administered the pledge to upwards of 30,000 persons. After his journey to Manchester, the reverend gentleman returned to Liverpool, where he increased the number of teetotallers to nearly 60,000. He has since paid a visit to the metropolis, privately, for the purpose of making arrangements to carry out more effectively hereafter his plans; and next year he intends, it is said, to visit the United States.

The military force now in Ireland amounts to 35,000 men.

The National publishes a third list of subscriptions in France in favour of the Repeal agitation in Ireland; it amounts to 412 francs 50 centimes, making the total amount subscribed 1,137 francs 50 centimes.

The following appears in the Naval and Military Gazette:—The Duke of Wellington is prepared to concentrate the troops in Ireland, and all the small detachments will be called in. Barrack's long unoccupied, are ordered to be furnished for the accommodation of troops; and stations where, of late, only a company was quartered will have a complete regiment. Far more is doing towards placing the country in a state to be defended than merely meets the eye. Troops are at the most convenient points for transmission; and we know that arms and ammunition are disposed at safe places in this country for their being sent over when required.

The second Tuam Repeal demonstration took place on the 21st ult., on the race-course of Gurraws, about two miles from the town. It was very numerously attended.

On Tuesday the usual weekly meeting of the National Repeal Association was held at the Corn Exchange Dublin.

Mr. O'Connell begged to make the following report:

Loyal National Repeal Association, Corn Exchange Rooms, Dublin, 25th July, 1843.

An account of all moneys paid into the National Repeal Treasury, for the quarter ending 4th July, 1843, and the corresponding quarter, ending 3d July, 1843:

	£	s.	d.
1842—Received from 5th April to 4th July, inclusive	999	9	7
1843—Received from 4th April to 3d July, inclusive.	15,798	11	3

Increase on the quarter : : : £14,799 1 8

By order T. M. RAY, Secretary.

On Saturday next £10,000 of that would be funded, and he would hand the scrip to Mr. Ray for £10,000. [Hear.] £1,000 had been already paid towards the building of the new hall, and there were other expenses.

Mr. O'Connell read letters, enclosing the following sums:—£20 from New Brunswick, £30 from New York, £100 from New Providence, and £100 from Albany.

It was announced that the Repeal rent for the week amounted to £2,198 19s. 6d.

**SPAIN.**—The Regency of Espartero has at last been brought to a close. He has given up the contest without a struggle, and taken refuge in Portugal. Cadiz has pronounced against his Government. The troops, hitherto faithful, are going over to the insurgents, who, in a few days, will be designated by another title, and a government which, but six months since, had the support of almost every province and town in Spain, has fallen at once, as by a stroke of paralysis. Three telegraphic despatches from Bayonne were received in Paris on Saturday evening. The first announces that Cadiz had made its *pronuncia-*



mento, and that the authorities in Espartero's interest had left the city. The second announces that Espartero, abandoned by the Major part of his troops, had taken refuge in the Portuguese territory, where he arrived on the 17th, with a squadron of cavalry. The third states it to be certain that the division of Iriarte has gone over to Aspiroz, as also the troops under Enna. On the 18th General Narvaez summoned the capital to surrender, threatening summary vengeance in case of resistance. The official answer of the municipality was as follows:—"The city of Madrid wishes to watch over the preservation of the person of the Queen, that precious trust which has been confided to it. It will await the result of the engagement which must soon take place to pronounce itself." It is to be observed that there is not one word about the Regent in the official answer.

The Paris papers of Sunday and Monday throw considerable doubt on the alleged flight of Espartero, and the authenticity of the telegraphic despatches alleged to have been received by the Government.

#### DEFEAT OF SEOANE AND ZURBANO—SURRENDER OF MADRID.

MADRID, July 23.—Narvaez and Seoane's troops met yesterday at Torrejon. After an engagement of a quarter of an hour's duration they fraternised. Seoane and Zurbano's son are prisoners. Zurbano fled, and is hid in Madrid. The corporation is this moment in consultation to surrender Madrid unconditionally. The militia are returning to their homes. The troops which pronounced under Enna occupy all the posts. Narvaez will enter with his division at five o'clock.

The *Moniteur* of Saturday publishes the following Telegraphic Despatches:—

"BAYONNE, July 27.—Madrid was tranquil on the 25th. They defiled before her Majesty. The palace was perfectly free.

"By decrees of the 23rd and 24th, the Lopez Ministry is re-constituted. Other decrees make the following nominations:—Narvaez, Lieutenant-General, Captain-General of Madrid, and General-in-Chief of all the troops in the capital; Prim, Count de Reuss and Governor of Madrid; Quinto, Political Chief; the Duke de Baylen, Commandant of the Halberdiers; Aspiroz, Lieutenant-General and General-in-Chief of the first corps of operation; and Cortina, Inspector-General of the National Guards.

BAYONNE, August 1.—The Duke of Baylen has been named Provisional Guardian of the Queen. The Ministry have changed the municipality of Madrid. General Cortinez has been named Chief of the Staff. M. Olozaga has been restored to his functions in the supreme tribunal of war and marine.

Generals Rifort and Minissir have adhered to the *pronunciamento* at Caceres and at Ciudad Real.

A decree of the Minister of War, sent to Espartero, declares that he shall be outlawed and punished as a rebel, if he continues hostilities in the bombardment of Seville.

On the 25th, the negotiations which had been entered into between the citizens of Seville and Espartero had ceased, and the bombardment had commenced with renewed vigour.

MADRID, July 26.—The capital is tranquil. The Ministry assembled to-day, and the deliberations of the Council lasted several hours. To convoke the Cortes, or to form a Central Junta, such has been the subject of their deliberations. It is generally believed that the Ministry will stop with the first of these measures.

The rumour is circulated that Cadiz has pronounced.

The expeditionary forces, which left Madrid for Andalusia, are composed of sixteen battalions, 600 cavalry, and some batteries of artillery.

Seville continued to be bombarded on the 25th ult., shewing great resolution, but suffering great disasters. Saragossa had sent in its adhesion to the Government at Madrid. The Junta of Burgos had arrested General Seoane, on his passage through that place. Madrid continues tranquil.

A new method has been discovered of etching on steel and other metals, by electricity, which promises to have important and extensive application to the arts.

The Augsburg Gazette, of the 20th instant, quotes a letter from Palermo of the 1st, announcing that the treaty of commerce between Great Britain and Naples was signed on the 26th June, and had been forwarded to London for ratification.

According to an unauthenticated report, Queen Victoria, with her consort, will go to Berlin in the autumn, to return the King's visit.

At a meeting of noblemen and gentlemen, in Belfast, on Monday, the Marquis of Donegal in the chair, steps were taken to call an Anti-Repeal meeting on Thursday, the 7th September next, "for the purpose of devising a plan for organizing the Protestants of Ulster, and of adopting measures for the defence and support of their common faith, their property and their lives.

THE DISTURBANCES IN WALES.—The reporter for the Liverpool Times gives the following account of the toll tax, which was led to the turnpike gate rebellion in Wales:—

"I was told, and at first I could not believe it, that in some places, at a distance from the lime kilns, the farmers had to pay for every five pounds worth of lime for manure, £6 in the turnpikes! As I before informed you, lime is the chief manure here. In the county of Cardigan there are no lime kilns or very few, from the quality of the stone there found; and it is usual for the farmers in Cardiganshire, and on the borders of Carmarthenshire adjoining, to go for their lime either to the sea-board, where it is brought by vessels, or to kilns near the town of Carmarthen, at a place called Llangyndearn, which is about five miles at the other side of Carmarthen. To this place the farmers, as far off as Llandysissal, Llairwenog, and even nearly as far as Lampeter, a distance of from 15 to 25 miles, come to buy their lime. At the kilns a two-horse load of lime costs from 2s 6d to 3s. From Carmarthen to the kilns, 5 miles, there are four turnpikes, two of them paying ones, i. e., 6d each for a cart and two horses; taking two or three other paying turnpikes, according to the distance, and in some of the distant by-places there are four, between the neighbourhood of Lampeter and Carmarthen, in addition, and you have other two or three six-pences, or half a crown for turnpikes for half a crown for lime manure, that is £5 for £5 or more, as the farmer told me. I had taken some care to ascertain the truth of this; it is a fact, and it must speak for itself. Can you wonder that here turnpikes are obnoxious to the miserably poor farmer I have described to you? The end of this is evident. Rents must fall; and the sooner the landlords make up their minds to moderate their rents, and relieve the farmers of their burdens in some degree, the sooner will the peace and quiet of the country be restored."

On Saturday, Rebecca and her daughters attacked and destroyed the Sandy Gate, close to the town of Llandelly. The toll-keeper of Crosslwyddgate, near Carmarthen, which was destroyed on Wednesday night se'nnight, is in very great danger from the severe kicks and blows that he received. At Swansea, the magistrates are procuring all the witnesses possible for the examinations

which will take place at the end of this week. The greatest anxiety is felt as to the result of the inquiry, as all the parties charged are highly respectable, and it is said that bail to the amount of £60,000 was forthcoming if necessary.

DUEL BETWEEN COL. FAWCETT AND MR. MUNRO.—The Coroner's Inquest on the body of Col. Fawcett terminated on the 18th ult. The Jury after an absence of an hour and a half returned the following verdict:—

"We find Alexander Thompson Munro, Duncan Trevor Grant, William Holland Leech, and Daniel Cuddy, guilty of wilful murder, as principals in the first degree; and George Gulliver guilty of wilful murder in the second degree, believing him present only as a medical man."

The Jury by the direction of the coroner, again retired, and ultimately it was understood that Mr. Gulliver was forthwith to be committed, on the coroner's warrant, to Newgate.

On the 20th of July the Lord Chancellor laid on the table a bill to legalize marriages solemnized by dissenting ministers in Ireland, between members of the Established Church. He said that before the session closed a general act would be introduced, such as would meet the approbation of the people of Ireland. The bill introduced on the 20th, passed the House of Lords, on the 21st.

On the 21st Lord Brougham's bill for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade was read a third time and passed in the House of Lords.

The Irish arms bill was got through committee in the House of Commons on the 24th July. The time of the bill's continuance in operation was reduced from five years to three, by way of compromise, the opponents of the bill proposing one year.

On the 27th Lord Brougham's slave trade bill was passed the House of Commons. Also the Irish marriage bill.

DR. CHALMERS' ADHESION TO VOLUNTARIYISM.—As we anticipated at the period when the recent secession from the Scotch Church took place, Dr. Chalmers has found it impossible to preserve his position—denouncing voluntarism by word and practising it in deed; and we rejoice to find that, with Christian candour and manliness, he last week came forward in a large meeting of ministers of the Free Church, to avow his adhesion to the principles he had hitherto undervalued.

Leeds Mercury.

The Canada Corn Act will come into operation on the 10th of October next, and from that date the duty levied upon all wheat and flour, the produce of the province of Canada, imported from thence into the United Kingdom, will be one shilling per quarter on wheat; and upon every 196lbs of flour, a duty equal to that upon every 38½ gallons of wheat.

PORTUGAL.—The Queen of Portugal was safely delivered of a princess on the 21st, ult an event which was celebrated with much public rejoicing. The rumors of changes in the cabinet had ceased, the differences subsisting between the members having been accommodated.

THE VACANT GARTER.—The names of several distinguished noblemen have been circulated at the clubs for the Garter at the disposal of the Premier, by the death of the Duke of Dorset, but we have reason to believe the honour has not been awarded to any personage. This is the sixth Garter that has been in the gift of Sir Robert Peel since he came into office—namely, those held by the Earl of Westmoreland, Marquis Wellesley, Marquis of Hertford, Duke of Dorset, Duke of Norfolk, and Duke of Cleveland.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BENEFICES BILL.—On Monday evening Sir James Graham moved the second reading. The bill, said he, was introduced to remove the doubts which unhappily had arisen upon the question of right as between the church-goers and the lay patrons. The Presbyterian religion had been first adopted by the lower and middle classes; the gentry and the aristocracy had been later in their adhesion to it; and hence had arisen much dispute. Having first sketched the history of the question down to the revolution, he came to the act of 1690, which he considered as establishing—1st, that no right was given to the disapprovers, except for reason assigned. 2dly, that the Presbytery are to act judicially, and not ministerially. 3dly, that their judicial discretion is to be exercised upon the identical reasons assigned by the church-goers. A long debate took place on the motion, which, on a division, was carried by a majority of 10.

#### THE STEAM-SHIP GREAT BRITAIN.

This magnificent vessel, which was launched last week, at Bristol, is composed entirely of iron, and is the largest ever built since the days of Noah. There are no paddle wheels or boxes, the Archimedean screw being used. Her burthen is 3,600 tons, being 2,000 tons more than that of the Great Western. She will be propelled by engines of 1000-horse power combined. The following are her dimensions:—length from figure-head to taffrail, 322 feet; length of keel, 289 feet, extreme width, 50 feet 6 inches; she has four decks, the upper deck is flush, and is 308 feet long; the second deck consists of two promenade saloons, the aft or first 110 feet 6 inches by 22 feet, and the forward, or second class, 67 feet by 21 feet 9 inches. The third deck consists of the dining saloons, the grand saloon measuring 96 feet 6 inches by 30 feet, and the second class 61 feet by 21 feet 9 inches. The whole of the saloons are 8 feet 3 inches high, and surrounded by sleeping berths, of which there are 26, with single beds, and 113 containing two, giving 252 berths. This large number is exclusive of the accommodation which could be prepared on the numerous sofas. The fourth deck is appropriated for the reception of cargo, of which 1,200 tons will be carried in addition to 1,000 tons of coal. The fore-castle is intended for the officers and sailors' mess-rooms and sleeping berths, with the sail-rooms underneath. The engines and boilers occupy a space of 80 feet in the middle portion of the vessel. The engine-room and the cooking establishment are situated in this part of the ship. There are three boilers; these are heated by 24 fires, and will contain 200 tons of water. There are four engines of 250 horse power each, the cylinders of which are 7 feet 4 inches in diameter. The chimney is 30 feet high, and 8 feet diameter. She is fitted with six masts, the highest of which is 74 feet above deck. The quantity of canvass carried will be about 1700 square yards; she will be fitted with the patent wire rigging; the hull is divided into four water-tight compartments, and the quantity of coal consumed will be about 60 tons per day; upwards of 1500 tons of iron have been used in her construction and that of the engines and boilers; the draught of water when laden will be 16 feet, and the displacement about 3,200 tons; the plates of the keel are from one inch to three quarters of an inch thick, and the other plates about half an inch thick; she is double rivetted throughout; the ribs are formed of angle iron six inches by three and a half inches by half an inch at the bottom of the vessel, and seven-sixteenths thick at the top; the mean distance of the ribs are fourteen inches from centre to centre. All these ribs will be doubled; the distance is then increased to eighteen and twenty-one inches. The ship will be fitted with very powerful pumps, which can throw off 7,000 gallons of water per minute.



### LAUNCH OF THE "GREAT BRITAIN."—SPEECH OF MR. EVERETT.

The collation given by the Great Western Steamship Company, upon the launching of their new and magnificent iron steamer, was an occasion of considerable interest. A number of speeches were made complimentary to the company and to Prince Albert, who was present as its guest. A toast in honor of the representatives of foreign governments present, was replied to by the Prussian Ambassador and Mr. Everett, our Minister, whose speech, we give below, was received with much enthusiasm. Mr. Everett said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN:—May it please your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen, the intimation which has been given to me, that in consequence of the kind allusion you have been pleased to make to my country and myself, some acknowledgement is expected of me, induces me to intrude myself for a moment on your notice. I feel it, sir, a very agreeable privilege, to be permitted to partake of the hospitality of this interesting occasion. We read in one of the delightful poetical productions, with which the literature of our common language has been enriched by Sir Walter Scott, of the Chieftain, who by the sound of his whistle, called up five hundred clansmen from the thickets of a highland glen. His Royal Highness has performed a greater wonder to-day. He has literally covered your walls, your road sides, your house-tops, and Bradon hill to the very summit, not with hundreds, but with a hundred thousand loyal subjects anxious to testify their devotedness to their gracious and beloved Sovereign, and their attachment to him, the partner of her affections. I rejoice, Sir, as the humble representative of one of the allied or friendly powers, to which you have alluded, to have an opportunity of witnessing a spectacle, so pleasing even to strangers.

But I could hardly feel myself a stranger when on stepping on board that wonderful ship, this morning, my eye caught from the foremast head the sight of the flag of my country, gracefully mingling its folds with yours and those of the other friendly powers. I rejoice in the belief, that the interest of the two kindred nations, rightly understood, are as near to each other as their banners on your mast-heads; and I pray from my heart that their best affections may be closely intertwined in honourable peace.

We read in the Arabian tales of the wonders of magic;—of flying steeds; of palaces starting by enchantment from the ground. Sir, let us leave magic to the nursery:—give me that magic of the Mechanic Arts. Consider that science, acting by their agency, has but waved her wand over the dark caverns of the iron mine, and out of them has started up this noble, this stupendous structure, ready to launch upon the waves. I rejoice to understand that my native shore is one of the destinations of this beautiful vessel; and I assure you that when she has passed the narrows at New York, she will be saluted by thousands of my countrymen, as cordially as by those, which now hail her entrance upon her destined element.

His Honor the Mayor has spoken of the declining trade of this ancient city; rather let us, with him, on this auspicious occasion, augur favorably of its revival. It is the nature of foreign trade, like the element on which it is conducted, to fluctuate hither and thither;—the wave rises on one shore and sinks on another. But I will not readily believe, that this ancient seat of English enterprise and trade,—from which the discoverers of North America went forth three centuries and a half ago,—is destined to a permanent decline. I rejoice to behold, in the active part she has taken in the noble enterprise of navigating the ocean by steam, a vigorous effort toward a great and speedy revival. Let us hope, that this wonderful ship, whose introduction to her destined element we are assembled to witness, may prove one of the efficient agents for bringing about that auspicious result. A wonder indeed, it is of modern art, that she will be able—with her immense bulk, with her way-faring hundreds, borne on her iron wings—to conduct her course across the Atlantic, and reach her desired haven, as regularly, almost, as certainty, as that mimic steamer, which has been busily pursuing its voyage before the table at which we are seated, and is now fast anchored in front of his Royal Highness. [Mr. Everett alluded to the ingenious piece of mechanism representing the 'Great Britain' in full sail.] Sir, I thank you again for your kind remembrance of my country, and beg to tender you and the Great Western Steamship Company my most cordial good wishes for the success of this great enterprise.

#### AGENTS WANTED

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## THE ANGLO AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1843.

By the Hibernia Mail Steamer to Halifax and Boston, and the Great Western Steamship from Liverpool to New York, we have our files to the 5th inst. The intelligence generally is not of very stirring interest with the exception of the great debate between the leaders of the two great parties in the House of Commons on the State of the Country, a copious report of which we have given in our columns to-day. The principal items of general intelligence will be found in our News Summary.

The room necessarily occupied by the debate just alluded to precludes us from giving the debates of other parliamentary proceedings; the latter, however, are of but minor interest, and we may just briefly remark that ministers have abandoned, for this session, The Ecclesiastical Courts Bill, the Factories Bill, the Irish Courts Bill, and some others. But as the session draws near its close, and the members are becoming more and more eager for the moors and grouse-shooting, the despatch of business becomes greater.

The Irish Arms Bill has taken a start, and has gone through the Commons in "double-quick," latterly, although it hobbled sorely at the beginning. The Scottish Church Bill also, passed through the House of Lords.

The Anti-Corn-Law League is making progress, a strong proof of which may be found in the defeat of the tory candidate for Durham, and the election there of Mr. Bright, one of the most eminent Leaguers.

We record to-day the substance of the most interesting effort of Legislative argument that has been exhibited for some time within the walls of the British House of Commons. We say *argument*, because the speeches of those who

took principal parts in the debate were confined to facts with their causes and consequences, and consisted little, if at all, in that which is considered Eloquence in the abstract. The times are gone by, perhaps for ever, when the splendor and beauty of senatorial language could so captivate the imagination as to blind the judgment, when the thunders of denunciation for almost hypothetical wrongs, or the impassioned dignity of offended virtue in the pseudo-patriot of the house, would dwell on the rapt ear, and make the worse appear the better reason. Our age has become utilitarian, the population in our day have become able to think, and to peer through the clouds of mystification which occasionally hover over and around them; facts are the leading points of argument now, and by the junction and comparison of these mankind are apt to draw their *own conclusions* both as to motives and results.

The debate to which we allude was very properly brought on by Lord John Russell, previous to going into perhaps the last committee of supply during the session, and he, quite as properly, declining to put his observations in the shape of a motion of enquiry, because he knew that his own party were in too certain a minority to carry the question of reproof against ministers. It follows then, we are to suppose, that the present administration has the confidence of the nation. We grant that they have so, but it does not follow that a ministerial majority is sufficient proof of it. Such a majority is an absolute but not an infallible assurance of a satisfactory administration; a majority on a capital question after a dissolution of Parliament shall have been announced would give probably something like the truth, but even then there would be those who hang on to the skirts of the powers that be. All this however, by the bye; let us return to the debate before us.

Lord John Russell in taking the initiative certainly was at a disadvantage, the reply lying on the other side, but he managed his affair very neatly on the whole. It is remarkable nevertheless how great was the quantity of bush-fighting between the antagonist speakers, how strongly each contended in strengthening particular points, and how adroitly each avoided reply where it was difficult to respond in a satisfactory manner. Lord John made his first great advance with Scinde, an acquisition to the British crown which, although highly important in itself, is even less justifiable on moral grounds than even the affair of Copenhagen in 1807. To this neither Sir Robert Peel nor Lord Stanley made the least reply; for the best of reasons, nothing but expediency could be urged. But the latter retorted upon the ex-ministers that the new Government had been obliged to repair the disasters of their predecessors in Afghanistan. When Lord Palmerston stated that the Candahar force could have repaired the disasters at Cabul, Lord Stanley retorted that they were not ready, and read a letter from General Nott in proof thereof; but when Lord Palmerston in a low tone said "read General England's letter," Lord Stanley blinked the observation and proceeded in his argument. On the questions of Tariff, Canada Corn Bill, deficiencies in revenue, distractions in Wales, and Irish Repeal, the arguments on both sides were but repetitions of those used in detail when those questions were severally deliberated, but they are valuable here as a condensed digest of all those matters.

Sir Robert Peel, besides touching in reply to Lord John Russell, urged the vexations to which the Government was put by protracted discussion and numerous adjournments, but here he met with a full reply from Lord Palmerston who demonstrated that these procrastinations were equally, if not more greatly applicable to the conduct of the Tories, and even of Ministers, themselves.

The speeches of Lords Palmerston and Stanley were rather to the effect of backing up the addresses of their respective friends and adherents, than to that of propounding additional subjects, except in the matter of the Candahar force, and some tone of expostulation and regret uttered by Lord Palmerston, and fervently echoed by Lord Stanley, as to the unhappy reverses of Espartero in Spain. And here we may add our own regrets that we could not perceive, in any of those speeches, the probability of any interference on the part of the British government with regard to Spanish affairs. It is true that the seeds of dissolution are evident enough, in the policy of Spain and the duplicity of France, and that the former will ere long be in the midst of anarchy, confusion, blood, and distress; but surely it is better to endeavour to prevent, than to labor to remedy. There are many steps consistent with non-interference which England might take, to save a whole nation even from themselves.

The Debate, as a whole, furnishes a good summary view of the state of affairs in the British empire, because there can be no great difficulty in balancing opinions and views propounded on the one hand by the most able statesmen of the whig party, Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston, and those which are upheld by the present ministers as delivered by Sir Robert Peel and Lord Stanley.

The advices from Ireland continue to be much the same as heretofore, and this we consider to be, on the whole, good news. There is not any violent demonstration made on the part of the Repealers, and the British Premier seems to be satisfied to strengthen his position and calmly await the result. We again say that O'Connell cannot stand still, he must either go forward into committal, or retreat into disgrace. The position he now occupies it is morally and politically impossible to sustain. We admit that the tide has not quite reached high water; numbers follow his steps and loudly respond to his addresses—of which by the bye, not a hundredth part of them can hear a word, if the popular report of their members be true,—the *Rent* comes in weekly in an increased flood, denoting surely that the Irish are not in such pecuniary distress as is often asserted, and the numerous followers of the Agitator appear to have abundant leisure, besides providing for the necessities of their families, to follow him from place to place in order to listen to the eloquence of his lips, and be taught lessons of independence and self-respect.

But we hear of three, five, six, seven hundred thousand of these Repealers in continual attendance on the O'Connell movements; let us reduce the number



to two hundred thousand, and ask how the sustenance is obtained in one section of country for so many mouths of unproductive eaters? Will not so large an army—we should say so large a *multitude*—be likely to create a famine in the district, and will not the requisitions for the support of so many be a great injury to those who have to raise the supplies? Oh! no, the multitudes who are here to-day retire to their labour for the present, and are succeeded by fresh numbers to-morrow; and as for the perquisitions they are all honestly paid for either by the individual consumers themselves or out of the O'Connell rent. Good! But, whether the multitudes be the same or successive, there are still the same large numbers unproviding, who must nevertheless eat; and whether they pay for their food directly out of their own pockets, or it be defrayed out of the Rent, it equally comes from them; thus, constantly paying away, and not adequately coming in from their industrious efforts, the mine must be exhausted at last. When that day shall arrive, and it will not be a protracted one, if O'Connell shall not have achieved the object he professed to have in view, and still more if it do not come up to the preconceived notions of its excellence, *let him look to himself*. If, on the contrary, the Agitator find his temporary position unstable, and be impelled to further action, we really think that he has met with his match in Sir Robert Peel, and again we say—*let him look to himself*!

We had written thus far when we received the latest periodicals from England. Eagerly opening Blackwood, we were delighted and flattered to find that in an able article on "The Repeal Agitation," the same views are taken with regard to the policy of Sir Robert Peel thereon as we have constantly described and endeavoured to vindicate; and we find, too, that his colleagues and the country generally, are now ready to acknowledge the wisdom of his proceeding. We were somewhat diffident of our own opinion until it should be well corroborated, and therefore repressed our strong desire to break loose in indignant reproaches against the blood-thirsty advocates of fire, sword, and halter to be applied remorselessly upon the misguided. Even the Duke himself who, as an old soldier, is for quelling disturbances promptly, *he* never broke out into violent tirades, although he desired instant checks upon the disorderly repealers. In fact turbulent, insolent, and revengeful language is that of little minds only; it emanates from those who harbour, "envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness," and who know no better maxim than that of "he that is not with me is against me,"—an unholy perversion of a sacred truth, applied in a very different case.

Men may err, or they may be misled, and we pity the mortal who may be subjected to either casualty, yet who, whilst under its influence himself, can unhesitatingly consign his fellow man to the scaffold or the gallows without an attempt to reclaim him; and who prefers the restoration of tranquillity through seas of blood and scenes of death, to the more magnanimous mode of forgiveness of the past and encouragement to virtue and loyalty for the future.

We shall endeavour to find place for the article to which we have alluded, next week, when we may possibly extend our remarks on the subject.

It was but the other day that we were assigning to the Duke of Victory—at present a misnomer—a life of vicissitude, but we hardly expected so complete a reverse as that which has befallen him, within so very brief a period as that which has elapsed since we speculated on his fortunes. On one day the sovereign *de facto* of a turbulent nation, whose licence he curbed with a strong and steady arm, and for whose prosperity he wrought successfully even in spite of themselves; on the next as it were, a fugitive and an exile, his offices given to one who, but shortly before, was considered a rebel and a proscribed man. Such is the gratitude of nations, so mutable is public opinion, so all-influential are the power of gold and the prospect of advancement.

But Espartero, although for the present stripped of authority and a wanderer perhaps beyond the borders of his native country, is not a man to succumb under adversity. He has acted a prominent part under such a variety and opposition of circumstances that he cannot but be aware of his own intellectual strength; he has been so much accustomed to command himself, and to sway the passions of others, that he cannot be ignorant of the best modes of procedure, even under a temporary cloud; and he must be so sensible—at least we sincerely think—of the benefits of his late administration, of the correct and honest desires by which he was prompted, and of the grateful recollection of these things which must remain in the hearts of the good and the patriotic in Spain—few though they may be—that he will neither despair nor remain supine so long as his fertile and practised judgment can perceive a hope of retrieving affairs. In very truth we have the most lively expectation of seeing this great man once more at the head of Spanish affairs, again working for the renovation of degraded Spain, again applying the only hand—his own—which can guide her to a respectable place among the nations of the civilized world.

The very complication of the causes which have humbled Espartero "from his high estate" will render it the easier for him to combat them. They have been hurled in one mass at his head and he was not able to withstand the shock; but they have not any bond of permanent union among themselves, and having struck their victim they break into distinct and jarring elements. The feeble efforts of the broken-down monastic orders,—the incipient but blind tendency towards republican institutions,—the jealousy most subtly instilled, of English influence, added to the consciousness that Spain owes England a load of obligation which she either knows not how, or is not inclined to repay,—the intriguing spirit of the ex-queen Christina,—the deep policy of Louis Philippe, and the desire which he so strongly manifests to aggrandise and strengthen his family,—and the power of French Gold, of which the King of the French is personally able to lavish large amounts for the furtherance of his purposes,—all these have for once struck simultaneously at the man whose patriotic objects were to regulate and moderate within, and to effect sufficient defences without, but whose purposes had been defeated before he had been able to give them permanent establishment.

But what will the English government do in such a case as this? The Regent was well inclined to come into the Commercial treaty with Great Britain; he was also averse to a matrimonial alliance between the young Queen of Spain and a member of the French Royal family. These, it is true, although strong reasons for a warm sympathy towards Espartero, and an interest in his fate are not of themselves sufficient to justify British interference with the internal affairs of Spain, more particularly by a government which has in so emphatical a manner *protested* against such conduct, which they alleged to have been committed by the Whigs. But the question is how far can it be *fully ascertained* that France has interfered in the case, and then comes another question of how far can England interpose to remonstrate against French action, and how far can she step forward to mitigate the evils of that action? That England—that any nation of Europe—should tamely and idly look on, and perceive the gradual effects of the insidious policy of France we can hardly believe; and although the "Balance of Power" is no longer the stalking-horse of politicians, its objects are incorporated in the policy of all who are sincerely lovers of general peace.

The greatest curse that ever befel Spain was the acquisition of American territory and the possession of gold in such large proportion as resulted from that acquisition. It turned the Spanish population into two classes, more effectually than the feudal system could do; and, ever since, the Spanish noble has been an enervate, helpless wren upon the body politic, and the lower class has been one of slaves. Mr Alison has well described them, in common with others that are more or less in similar circumstances. He says, "In many countries of Europe, such as Italy, Portugal, and Spain, the people have lost, during centuries of peace, the firmness requisite to earn their freedom. They complain of their oppressors, they lament their degeneracy, they bewail their liberties, but they have not the boldness to attempt their vindication. Unless under the guidance of foreign officers, they are incapable of any sustained or courageous efforts in the field; when that guardianship is removed they sink immediately into their native imbecility." Much of this opinion was well confirmed in the peninsular war of 1808-13, in which the Spanish troops were of no value in the field until they were officered by Englishmen, and the only "courageous efforts" were undertaken by a *few* brave guerilla chieftains, such as he who was known as the "Empecinado," whose acts were occasional brilliant episodes, but whose efforts, though constant, were not "sustained."

We can believe, therefore, that the Spaniards have, if not invited, at least encouraged their own real enemies, and will not discover the mischief they have done until too late to remedy it; unless such a man as Espartero discover, as we trust he will, the means to recover his authority, and thereby frustrate the objects of the complicated fulmination against him. One means of doing so may be found, as we trust, in the British Government finding cause enough justifiably to interfere; at any rate to remonstrate, and at least to prevent a repetition of the mischief ensuing from a Royal French marriage into a Royal Spanish house.

#### CHAMBERS' EDINBURGH JOURNAL.

THE REPRINT of this celebrated work will be commenced on Monday next, the 28th inst., beginning with the first July number of the original edition. The Reprint will be executed upon good paper, and with a clear type. It will be supplied at the *low price of One Dollar* per annum to yearly subscribers. *Seven Copies* will be furnished for one year, for Five Dollars. Agents supplied on the most liberal terms. Address E. L. Garvin, 6 Ann Street, New York.

August 26, 1843.

#### Cricketers' Chronicle.

We have great pleasure in announcing that the friendly challenge given by the St. George's Cricket Club of New York to all the United States, or to Canada, has been accepted by the Toronto Club, and the acceptance has come to hand. We believe there will be some modifications necessary of the terms in which the Toronto acceptance is couched, but nothing doubt of a final arrangement. The Match will probably come off here about Thursday, the 7th Sept.

The Toronto Herald, in alluding to this proposed Match, speaks in modest terms of the qualifications of the Toronto Club, and in a delicately handsome manner of the St. George's Club; but the accomplished editor, who holds the most prominent position in the former society, knows well how to avoid the appearance of presumption without derogating from the true merits of those with whom he is associated.

In conclusion, we can assure the gentlemen of Toronto that they will receive here the right hand of fellowship, and that Cricket and all its social ties shall be upheld here to the best of every ability.

\* \* The arrival of the Steamers, and the extent of room required for the main debate which we give to-day, precludes us from entering into the ordinary editorial duties of Public notices concerning books, music, drama, &c. On these we shall find occasion to enlarge in our next: meanwhile we strongly recommend a careful perusal of that debate, feeling assured that it will be found highly interesting to every class of readers, American as well as Foreign.

**BRITISH AND AMERICAN MUSICAL SOCIETY.**—The first concert of the Second Series of these popular Musical Subscription Soirees, by native Artists, will take place on Monday week, the 4th of September, 1843, and be continued on every alternate Monday evening (instead of Thursdays, as heretofore) until the Series is complete, at the large Assembly Room of the Shakespeare Hotel, commencing as usual at 8 o'clock. Full particulars of the first night's performance, with the names of the distinguished Vocal and Instrumental artists connected with this Series of Concerts, will be duly announced. The terms of Subscription to the Second Series will be the same as to the first. And Subscribers names, can be received for the present, at the Music Store of Messrs. Firth & Hall, No. 1 Franklin Square, where a book is opened for that purpose. Aug 26-11.

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Reference—G. Merle, Esq., and Wilson & Brown, N. Y.

Aug. 26-11.